

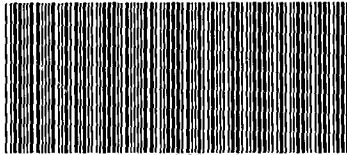
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Defense Schedules 'Dry Run' For Sirhan on Witness Stand

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 30 — Sirhan B. Sirhan will be called to the witness stand Tuesday in what appears to be a "dry run" by the defense to save him from the gas chamber.

Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper insisted to newsmen that he needs the slim young Arab's testimony as part of one last pre-trial maneuver.

'Apparently, however,' his lawyers have yet to decide whether to put him on the stand at his murder trial. Tuesday's appearance will give them an opportunity to try him out without a jury present.

The mounting pressures began to tell on the defendant's mother, Mary, who also will be called to testify Tuesday. She burst into tears today during a recess.

Mother Reportedly Upset

Mrs. Sirhan was said to have been upset by a visit Wednesday at her Pasadena home by the prosecution's chief psychiatrist, Dr. Seymour Pollock.

She was understood to have been convinced by his questions that he put little stock in the defense claim that her son was incapable of premeditated murder when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in the Ambassador Hotel here last June.

Ostensibly, the stocky Jordanian woman and her wasp-waisted son are being called as part of a defense bid to quash the first-degree murder indictment against him.

Cooper has contended that the poor and the disadvantaged have been improperly kept from serving on Los Angeles County grand juries such as the one that lodged the charge against Sirhan.

The Sirhans' testimony Tuesday, Cooper stressed, would be limited to the difficulties in making ends meet as Arab immigrants.

Chosen by Lot

Grand jurors are chosen by lot from nominations submitted by each Superior Court judge. The defense has complained that this inevitably means a plethora of older citizens from gilt-edged neighborhoods such as Beverly Hills.

Sirhan's lawyers are polling most of the 133 Superior Court judges in the sprawling county by questionnaire to find out how they made their choices. But three decided to testify instead, and they they acknowledged that they picked friends who could afford to put aside jobs for a year's grand jury service at \$10 a day.

Cooper asked one of the three, Judge Edward R. Brand, whether all of his choices for a two-year period made more than \$15,000 each.

The judge had no doubt of that. "It doesn't take very much," he said, "to earn over \$15,000 today."

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Date **JAN 31 1969**

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46 FEB 12 1969

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Sirhan, Mother Tell Of Financial Plight

By George Lardner
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 4 — The mother of the man accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy testified today in a low, sorrowful voice about how she baked her own bread, walked to work and tried to pay her bills on an income of less than \$1850 a year. She got little cash, she said, from her sons.

The lawyers had no other questions, but Mary Sirhan was not quite done. Abruptly, she rose to her full 4 feet, 11 inches.

"I thank God that He gave me the strength," she said emotionally. "And I thank the United States also that I never go hungry and that I have a roof over my head."

Moments later, deputies led her fifth child, Sirhan B. Sirhan, back to his jail cell. He had testified earlier, taking his oath with a lightly clenched fist.

Both were called by the defense today to testify about their struggle against poverty since coming to the United States in 1957.

Sirhan turned up in a new blue shirt with buttoned-down collar and the blue-gray suit he has worn to court almost every day for a month. He was plainly anxious for questions, any questions.

"Obviously you're the defendant in this action, Mr. Sirhan?" chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper asked.

The slender Jordanian immigrant smiled broadly.

"Yes, sir," he replied in a firm, clear, almost proud voice.

From there, Cooper led the 24-year-old defendant through a long list of low-paying odd jobs, beginning in 1964 at a Pasadena drive-in and ending, shortly before Kennedy's assassination, at a health food store in Pasadena.

During those five years, Sirhan nodded, he earned precisely \$6558.10 before taxes.

He had \$740 withheld in taxes, he said, but he got "almost all of it back." Part of his earnings, he said, went to

his 55-year-old mother, but apparently not much.

"If I need it and he have it, he will give it to me," Mrs. Sirhan testified. But she got "very little." She indicated that Sirhan used most of his money to buy clothes and maintain his second-hand 1956 DeSoto, the car found near the Ambassador Hotel after Kennedy's assassination last June.

Sirhan and two of his brothers, Munir, 21, and Adel, 30, all lived with their mother at her \$12,000 Howard Street home in Pasadena. They paid no room or board, Mrs. Sirhan said.

According to Cooper, the four together had a net income of \$8217 a year. The median income in the United States for a family of three or more wage earners, according to 1967 figures, would be \$11,798.

The testimony was an effort to bolster Cooper's claim that the first-degree indictment against Sirhan should be quashed. He protested that minority groups, especially the poor, had been unconstitutionally excluded from the grand jury that lodged the charge.

According to a study commissioned by the defense, the list of nominees for the 1968 grand jury was top-heavy with elderly, affluent friends and neighbors of the Superior Court judges who picked them. Few on the list, Cooper maintained, made less than \$15,000 a year.

Judge Walker, as expected, denied the motion, ruling that the attack on the grand jury system had neither relevance nor merit. The judges have defended the setup on the grounds that year-long service on the grand jury is too much of a financial burden for those with jobs they can't afford to put aside.

The court will reconvene today to begin selection of six alternate jurors, the last step before the actual trial begins.

The progress, however, was overshadowed by the testimony. And despite Sirhan's brief appearance on the stand, it was his mother who dominated the courtroom session.

The proud, devout, strong-minded Arab woman came to California on her own with Sirhan, three other sons and her only daughter, Ayda, a sickly girl who died of cancer four years ago.

The father, Bishara, a strict and reportedly violent disciplinarian, already had broken apart from them, though he rejoined the family briefly, first in New York and again later in Los Angeles. But he stayed in the United States only three years before returning to his village near Jerusalem.

Dressed in a black knit suit with a bright red courtroom pass dangling from it, Mrs. Sirhan told the court she has worked as a housekeeper at the Westminster Presbyterian nursery school, a few blocks from her home, for the past 11 years.

Her pay check every two weeks, she said, has been \$92.11.

But now, she added, she no longer has the job. The church, Mrs. Sirhan indicated, replaced her last month because she wants to attend the trial and the nursery school needs the work done.

She did not say, nor did anyone ask, how she is meeting her \$70 dollar-a-month mortgage payments and other bills. Nor was she pressed on how she ever met her obligations on \$1850 a year without substantial help from her sons.

Later, the diminutive, gray-haired woman told reporters that she hadn't planned to say what she did after Judge Walker had told her to step down.

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"It just came out," she said. "That's how I feel really. I never go hungry in the United States. I was so glad to make a home for my children."

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Date FEB 5 1969

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Associated Press

Youngest son Munir leads Mrs. Sirhan to courtroom.

Indictment Is Upheld

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Grand Juries

Sirhan Defense Team to Probe California's Unique System

By John Douglas

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

County grand juries
how are they chosen?

Is the system archaic?

Do they try to accomplish
too much in their dual respon-
sibilities to the criminal
courts and to civil govern-
ment?

These questions will be
pressed by defense lawyers in
the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan
murder trial this week as they
not only seek to quash the in-
dictment charging their client
with the murder of Sen. Rob-
ert F. Kennedy, but also to
overturn forever California's
unique Grand Jury system.

—The law of every state
makes provision for some
kind of Grand Jury system. In
the New England states, these
juries are seldom called into
session—summoned only in
the event of major crimes or
scandals.

In other states, such as New
York, the County Grand Jury
is in session almost continual-
ly, as it is in California. But
there is a difference. The
Grand Jury, except in very
limited circumstances, has
only the power to indict for
crime in New York — noth-
ing else.

But in California the Legis-
lature has given Grand Jury
many tasks. Summing them
up, the 1968 Los Angeles
County Grand Jury reported
to the Board of Supervisors:

"Few citizens realize that
California county grand juries
have two-fold functions: The
first, well-known, is the crimi-
nal function; the second less
widely recognized but equally
important, is the civil or
housekeeping responsibility."

The 1968 Grand Jury indicted
Sirhan. It notes this in its
report in a 10-line paragraph.
The same report devotes 65
pages to the Grand Jury in-
vestigation of county govern-
ment. This was not a criminal
investigation. Much of it is
based on the findings of an
audit team employed each
year by the jury.

This year the jury also de-
voted its time to investigation
of health services in the
county, a study of student un-
rest and civil disobedience,
and to a probe of inadequate
facilities for the Coroner's
Office.

As the grand jurors noted in
their final report: "Los An-
geles County is one of the
largest financial enterprises

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Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
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Mr. Trotter _____
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Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

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A-11 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 2/2/69
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Editor: Donald Goodenow
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in the West. . . . The conduct of this enterprise, and the spending of a budget in excess of \$1.5 billion is, by law, the direct business of the Grand Jury.

The magnitude of the Grand Jury's task can perhaps be fathomed by comparing the county with a similar metropolitan region.

The only municipal jurisdiction in the United States comparable in population to Los Angeles County is the City of New York. That city, divided into five counties, never has less than five grand juries sitting simultaneously.

There are usually twice that number. Moreover, all the civil 'housekeeping' functions performed by the Los Angeles County Grand Jury are done by the New York State and New York City comptrollers' office, each with a staff of hundreds.

In Los Angeles the 23 members of the jury can expect to meet four or five days a week, and be loaded with homework to study at their all-too-rare leisure. Although, by law, the jury must hire an auditor, usually a certified public accountant, that accountant's findings must be studied and approved by the jurors before they can be finalized.

Judge Arthur Alarcon, who twice as Criminal Courts Master Calendar Judge, has supervised the jury, estimated in testimony at the Sirhan trial that a member of the jury spends some 50 hours weekly on his task.

For it he is paid \$10 daily when the grand jury is sitting, plus mileage one-way at 10 cents per mile.

Kenneth Chantry, retired Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, and Judge Edward Brand, a member of the Superior bench since 1936, both believe that the time grand jury service takes and the judgment required of a juror in his assessment of the county's business, necessarily limits service on the jury to a few.

Unlike many jurisdictions, California grand juries sit for a full calendar year. An appointee to the jury must be able to make the financial sacrifice demanded by this year's service. And, if he is not self-employed, he must have an employer who is willing to, in effect, give him up for that year.

Judge Brand especially, according to his testimony at the Sirhan trial, is convinced that the decisions about the county's business a grand juror is required to make also requires a person of extraordinary intelligence and business acumen.

The element of sacrifice of time, Judge Alarcon and Judge Chantry testified, is the major barrier they found in their search for young people and members of minority groups to serve on the jury.

Judge Brand testified he never made any special effort to find either the young or the minority group members, when he sought nominees. He appointed people he knew.

The system of selection in California is a complex one. It begins each September in the year prior to which the juror is to serve.

In Los Angeles County, each of the 134 Superior Court Judges is invited to nominate two persons. Some do not make nominations, others name only a single person. In each case it is up to the individual jurist.

The names submitted are then subjected to a background investigation and studied by a committee of judges, which may have from three to eight members.

Some names are winnowed out and the rest given to the county clerk. By the spin of a wheel, he selects 34 names. Summons are served on these 34, and they appear before the clerk, at which time, again by the spin of a wheel, 23 of their number are finally chosen for service. This selection must be made by Dec. 10 in the year preceding the year in which the juror is to serve.

In criminal cases, and in

questions involving the removal of civil officials, which the Grand Jury also has the power to do, 14 of the 23 jurors must hear the evidence and concur before an indictment or removal may be voted.

In its civil work, the Grand Jury is divided into committees: Audit, Schools, Social Service, Smog, Jails, etc. These committees are of differing size depending on their importance and responsibility.

The jury makes its criminal reports to the Master Criminal Calendar Judge and its final municipal report to the Board of Supervisors. It has the services of the District Attorney and his staff and other municipal officials as staff.

It must hire an auditor, but, unlike other states in California the jury can not hire an attorney independent of the district attorney.

Each of the judges who nominated a member of the jury which indicted Sirhan has been asked questions about the criteria he used in selecting nominees.

Defense attorneys believe that in many cases this study will show the judges nominated their friends. However, many observers maintain that, given the civil responsibilities at the Grand Jury, this occurs because the jurists want persons whose judgment they trust.

Emile Zola Berman, one of Sirhan's lawyers says that the very nature of the California Grand Jury system is such that "no working stiff can ever serve."

Because of this, he, and his associates, Grant B. Cooper and Russell E. Parsons, will attack the system at its roots—the selection process and the civil aspect.

They expect to take their battle to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Should they prevail, the California Grand Jury system would fall.

Sirhan Jury Is Complete; Rumors of Plea Fill Court

By THEO WILSON

Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Los Angeles, Feb. 11—The Sirhan Sirhan murder trial, now estimated to last "from three days to three months," got its complete jury today with the swearing in of six alternate jurors.

Judge Herbert V. Walker then adjourned court until Thursday, because tomorrow is Lincoln's birthday and a county holiday, and opening statements and testimony are scheduled to begin then.

Might Cop a Plea

The alternates—three women and three men, including the only Negro accepted—were sworn amid courtroom gossip that there is a chance Sirhan may cop a plea, that is, plead guilty of first or second degree murder.

In this state, a defendant can plead guilty of first degree murder to get a sentence of life imprisonment.

Neither the defense nor prosecution would confirm or deny the rumor, except to say that there is always a "possibility" that this can happen.

Sirhan has been indicted for first degree murder in the June 5, 1968, slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. If convicted, his jurors could send him to the gas chamber or sentence him to prison for life.

If he were to plead guilty of second degree murder, with the consent of the prosecution, then sentencing would rest with Walker, who could send the 24-year-old defendant to prison for anywhere from five years to life.

Sirhan also could plead guilty of manslaughter, which carries a sentence of from one to 15 years.

The rumors about a possible plea have been mentioned since the trial started, but they got added impetus after District Attorney Evelle L. Younger told reporters yesterday—after a meeting with the judge and all of the attorneys—that the trial could last "from three days to three weeks."

Possible Meaning

Assistant D. A. John Howard said today he believed Younger merely was indicating that nobody can estimate the length of a trial. Assistant defense attorney Russell Parsons said that the possibility of a guilty plea has been discussed frequently.

The alternates were accepted today after chief defense attorney Grant Cooper arose and said: "Your honor, I am happy to announce we have a jury."

Cooper made this statement immediately after assistant District Attorney David N. Fitts said for the second time today that the state accepted the six alternates in the box.

"A Hard Look," He Thinks

The first time Fitts accepted, Cooper used a peremptory challenge to get rid of a housewife after Sirhan agitatedly conferred with his attorneys, getting up from his chair and leaning over the bench to talk with them.

It was learned that Sirhan believed the housewife, who was seated yesterday, gave him "a hard look."

She was replaced by another woman and the alternates were sworn on the 20th day of the trial, now in its sixth week.

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46 FEB 14 1969

Sirhan Jury Is Set; Trial Scheduled To Open Thursday

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 11 — The last jurors for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's assassination trial were sworn in today amid backstage maneuvering over a guilty plea that could save him from the gas chamber.

Prosecution and defense lawyers both conceded that a guilty plea from Sirhan was "a possibility." But several obstacles remain.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, it appears, wants the trial to be held. And Sirhan wants to tell his story.

The actual trial is scheduled to begin Thursday with opening statements by chief prosecutor Lynn D. Compton and defense counsel Emile Zola Berman.

"We're going to work in (to the trial) all the problems that make up Sirhan Sirhan—and explain just how he ticks or doesn't tick," Berman told reporters.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant busied himself today with the final choice of jurors. Huddling with his attorneys, he had them dismiss a blond woman they were about to accept, then at length pronounced his satisfaction with the final panel.

The six jurors chosen will serve as alternates in case any of the 12-member panel sworn in last week dies or becomes incapacitated.

The alternates named today include three men and three women. The last to be named was Gloria J. Haffey, a Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. worker.

She replaced Mrs. Beth Feenstra, the wife of a Los Angeles electrician who was about to be seated until Sirhan spoke up.

"He just didn't like her. He wanted somebody else, that's all," chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper told reporters. Others explained that Sirhan felt she had been giving him "hard looks."

But while preparations for the trial went forward, it was learned that lawyers for both sides have been feeling each other out about the possibility of a guilty plea.

District Attorney Evelle J. Younger fueled the gossip Monday after a brief conference with Judge Walker. The trial, Younger subsequently announced, could last three months or, he said, it could last "three days."

Elaborating on the cryptic remark today, Younger pointed out that Sirhan's attorneys have already conceded that he killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel here last June.

Carrying the defense concession through to "its logical conclusion," Younger said, Sirhan's lawyers might choose to dispense with his first-degree murder trial altogether and "go directly to the question of penalty."

Under California law, a separate trial is held in first-degree murder cases to choose between life imprisonment and death in the gas chamber at San Quentin.

Sirhan's attorneys have been hoping for a manslaughter or second-degree murder verdict, but to win either, they would have to go through a full-dress trial.

"We wouldn't consider a plea to anything other than first-degree murder," Younger said.

With the courts approval, however, Sirhan could enter a first-degree murder plea on condition that he be given life imprisonment. Speaking for the prosecution, Younger said that such a bid "would certainly command our serious consideration."

Tentative discussions along this line have already been held. But Judge Walker appears to be balking. "He's not about to give his consent," one source said.

Other possible stumbling blocks include Sirhan himself and the public resentment that would almost certainly be stirred up at being deprived of the inside story behind the assassination.

The defense claims that Sirhan was so obsessed by the Arab-Israeli conflict that he was incapable of premeditated murder when he shot Sen. Kennedy, an avowed supporter of U.N. aid to Israel.

The defense could still try an end run around Judge Walker by entering a straight "guilty" plea to the first-degree murder charge, perhaps with the understanding that the prosecution would not push for a death sentence at the penalty trial.

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Date FEB 12 1969

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Sirhan Seeks Mistrial; Publicity on Plea Cited

By a Star Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Attorneys for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan today moved for a mistrial on grounds that pretrial newspaper, radio and television publicity may have prejudiced the jury selected to decide whether Sirhan is guilty of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

As the court session opened, Grant Cooper, one of Sirhan's three lawyers, immediately moved for the mistrial, specifically citing an article in yesterday morning's editions of the Los Angeles Times which said Sirhan was considering entering a plea of guilty to the charge of first-degree murder.

"The defendant, Sirhan Sirhan, moves for a mistrial of this case on the ground that the publicity emanating originally from an article in the Los Angeles Times yesterday morning which was followed by a resume of the same facts on every radio station in the country" may have prejudiced the jury.

Cooper said the publicity concerning speculation about a possible voluntary plea of guilty had reached the point of "saturation" prior to the time of jury was sequestered.

Members of the jury hearing the case were not locked up in a downtown hotel until yesterday evening. Prior to that, speculation about a possible guilty plea was carried not only in the Los Angeles papers but by news media throughout the country.

Sirhan's trial in Los Angeles County Superior Court formally opened on Jan. 7, but it was not until Jan. 24 that preliminary motions were disposed of and a jury of eight men and four women was selected.

Selection of six alternate jurors was completed Tuesday and Judge Herbert V. Walker ordered a one-day recess yesterday prior to presentation of opening arguments and the prosecution's case, to be followed by the case for the defense.

The reports that Sirhan's attorneys proposed that he plead guilty came amid indications that both prosecution and defense psychiatrists who have examined the 24-year-old Jordanian found he qualified under California's unusual "diminished responsibility" medical-legal test.

That standard—something of a limited insanity plea—allows a defendant in a capital case to argue that his mental or emotional capacity at the time the crime was committed was so diminished as to rule out the degree of premeditation which must be proven by the prosecution to secure the death penalty.

Sirhan was indicted on a charge which says he killed Kennedy here last June 5 "with malice aforethought"—the degree of premeditation whose maximum penalty upon conviction in California is death in the state's gas chamber.

California juries decide both the guilt or innocence of the accused and the sentence he must serve if convicted. Whether a defendant pleads guilty to first-degree murder or is convicted of the charge, the jury can make only two possible recommendations—death or life imprisonment.

The latter has emerged as a possibility in the Sirhan case, particularly if the prosecution does not actively press for a death sentence. Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger has hinted he would accept such a compromise.

Both Younger and Chief Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said this week that the prosecution would study the possibility of accepting a guilty plea to first-degree murder.

Sirhan, however, reportedly balked at his attorneys' initial suggestions of pleading guilty because he felt the shift in strategy would deny him the opportunity to publicly explain, from the witness stand, his reasons for the assassination.

Not Decided Yet

"I am not ruling out any option," said Russell E. Parsons, one of three defense lawyers. "Such a possibility is always discussed in any case. I have talked about the possibility with the prosecution right from the beginning. But at the moment, the trial is going on."

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FEB 13 1969

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SIRHAN TRIAL SET FOR KEY APPEAL

Two Opening Statements
Are Expected This Week

By LACEY FOSSBURGH

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8—Although the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan started 34 days ago and is expected to continue for two or three months more, one day next week may be the most critical day of all.

At that time two lawyers who have been silent during the process of jury selection will stand up in the small, crowded eighth-floor courtroom in the Hall of Justice here and deliver their opening statement.

First, the Chief Deputy District Attorney, Lynn D. Compton, who has been absent for more than 100 murder cases, will speak.

The jurors, accustomed to hearing the two Deputy District Attorneys, David N. Fitts and John E. Howard, will then listen for almost an hour to the deep, gruff voice of the 6-foot-tall, 220-pound former football player outlining the prosecution's case.

Afterward, 66-year-old Emile Zola Berman, the slight, baldish defense lawyer from New York who has not yet said 10 audible words in open court, will rise and face the jurors.

Key Part of Trial

"This is about the most important part of the whole trial," he said the other day, "If you can't make the jury realize in the opening statement that you have a valid and strong defense, you're lost."

Day in, day out, Mr. Berman has leaned back in his chair, his fingertips pressed together, and studied the prospective jurors' faces as his colleagues, Grant B. Cooper and Russell E. Parsons, questioned them.

"This is the only chance you have," he said, "for the weeks and weeks, and perhaps months, that go by until summation time, to explain your case and convince them of the validity of what you believe about your client."

Mr. Berman, a member of the board of trustees of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, was chosen to deliver this important speech, Mr. Cooper explained, "because he's recognized as the top lawyer in the country at this. No one's better than Berman," he said.

"It's a real challenge," Mr. Berman said of the assignment. "It's tough."

In 1956 he waged a successful defense battle to have Staff Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon found guilty only of drinking on duty and simple negligence.

The sergeant had been charged with culpable negligence and responsibility for the death of six marines in a South Carolina swamp.

"Here's a guy who shot Kennedy, and everybody knows it," Mr. Berman said. "You have nothing but hostility to start with. The whole case depends on how the jury reacts to my opening."

Problem Defined

He intends to argue, "not in psychiatric terms or mumbo-jumbo, but in English," that Sirhan was of unsound mind when he shot the Senator last June. He was in a state of "diminished responsibility" and could not have given the act the rational and mature consideration necessary for a first-degree murder conviction, Mr. Berman said.

"The problem will be to persuade them this is a real defense for Sirhan," he said, "and that psychiatry is not witchcraft or alchemy."

While the selection of six alternate jurors continued last week and is scheduled to resume Monday, the two lawyers have been busy preparing their speeches.

Mr. Compton, who has tried more than half of the proceed in his 19 years as a prosecutor in Los Angeles County, said he "will negate some of the rumors that have arisen about the assassination."

The prosecution expects to call about 80 witnesses, many of whom saw the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel last June.

"I don't want to reveal ahead of time what I'm going to say," Mr. Compton said, "but some of our evidence may be unexpected. It may be something people are not aware of."

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Advocate for Sirhan

Emile Zola Berman 12

By LACEY FOSBURGH
 Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14—In May of 1964, Emile Zola Berman, carrying a briefcase and a pair of small, white sneakers, headed south for Alexandria, La.

Waiting for him was a 14-year old Negro boy, barefoot and alone in a stuffy dark cell, charged with raping a

67-year-old spinster, a member of the town's leading family. "They wanted the death penalty," Mr. Berman, a gaunt, baldish lawyer, recalled recently. "I was the Jew from New York and he was a Negro kid. It was tough, I can tell you. We were up against the most prestigious family in the area and an all-white jury."

Several weeks later, Mr. Berman went back to New York, and the boy, wearing his new sneakers, started a two-year jail sentence.

The Greatest Challenge

Today Mr. Berman faced perhaps the greatest challenge of his long, distinguished career. In the eighth-floor courtroom in the Hall of Justice here, in the opening statement for the defense, he began trying to persuade a jury that there was "a real and valid defense" for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, charged with the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy last June.

"It's tough, it's real tough, but that's why I'm here," Mr. Berman said recently.

"The worst cases and the worst crimes make the best law and this one represents everything I've been working for all my life. Sirhan is a symbol of every man's right to a fair trial and this right needs constant reinforcement by people qualified to do it."

Mr. Berman, 66 years old, is defending Sirhan without payment as a member of the defense team.

In 1956 he waged a fierce defense battle in Parris Island, S. C., to have S. Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon found guilty of drinking on duty and simple negligence. The defendant had originally been charged with culpable negligence leading to the death of

Although he frequently makes such journeys to far-away places to defend individuals from the death penalty. Mr. Berman's regular work is defending corporations against liability suits. For each courtroom appearance for the New York firm of Berman & Frost, he reportedly receives \$4,000.

Whether in his favorite restaurants, Toots Shor and "21", or at any of his three homes in New York City, Roslyn Heights, L.I., and Westhampton, L.I., Mr. Berman is frequently engaged in a choice pastime—telling stories to friends.

Among his favorites is the one about the time he jumped ship in California one summer long ago and hitchhiked East. He was then a student at New York University. He was graduated from the N.Y.U. Law School in 1925.

History of a Name

Another is the history of his name. In the late eighteenth century, his parents, refugees from Russia, were among a group of students living in Paris whom Emile Zola took under his wing.

Later when her first son was born in America, on the Lower East Side Nov. 3, 1902, the young mother named him after the French author who defended Capt. Alfred Dreyfus after he was convicted of treason.

Virtually everyone, Mr. Berman says, calls him "Zuke."

As a child playing in the streets, he would hear his mother call, "Zola, come up for your milk."

"That wouldn't do," he said. "Somebody thought of Zuke as a remedy."

The only person who has ever called him Emile is his second wife, Virginia.

Mr. Berman's two children, both from his first marriage, are named Eliza and Eli.

To Sirhan and his family, he is Mr. Berman. Almost every day after he emerges from the courtroom, Mr. Berman finds the defendant's mother, Mary, and gives her an enthusiastic embrace.

"I have to show her I'm with her," Mr. Berman explains. "I'm here fighting for her son's life, and I want her to know we have a chance."



The New York Times

"It's real tough, but that's why I'm here."

Emile Zola Berman aka "Zuke"
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Excerpts From Sirhan Lawyer's Statement at Trial

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Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14 —Following are excerpts from an unofficial transcript of the opening statement made to the jury today by Emile Vola Berman of New York, defense counsel for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan:

Now one thing I'd like to fasten down with you. The evidence in this case will disclose that the defendant, Sirhan Sirhan, is an immature, emotionally disturbed and mentally ill youth.

To start, then, at the beginning, Sirhan was 3 years old when war broke out between Palestinian Arabs and Zionists in Palestine in 1947. It was then that shooting took place on the very street where he lived in Jerusalem.

On the Saturday before Easter of 1948, Sirhan and his mother, father, brothers and sister crawled out of their home in the early dawn with gunshots echoing all about them to a temporary safety in an Orthodox Christian convent in another part of the city.

They never went back. They lived with other uprooted and evicted Arabs in a hungry, war-torn, violent existence. Sirhan, this young boy at the time, was exposed to the most severe, repeated scenes of war with such effects upon him to leave their mark upon his personality all during his life.

Sirhan saw a little girl's leg blown off by a bomb and the blood spurting from below her knee, as though from a faucet. He went into a spell, he stiffened, his face contorted, he was out of contact with reality, and lost all sense of where he was or what was happening to him.

'In a Trance for 4 Days'

These severe reaction spells from the horrors of war occurred again and again. For example, a bomb exploded when he was playing near the Damascus Gate. Sirhan went into a spell, someone called his mother, who took him home, where he remained in a trance for four days.

Through ten years of the hot and cold war, the Sirhan family, under great hardships, tried to make things work out.

Sirhan went to the Lutheran church school run by Arab Christians, and at his age of 12 the family came to America, to this country, and that was in 1957. Some seven months later, the father left their home alone, and abandoned his family and returned to Jordan, did nothing for them financially or otherwise, up to and including the present moment — and in fact divorced his mother.

While here, Sirhan went to Muir High School, where he always felt and always reacted as an outsider — it was a fact. He just didn't belong. He was someone who didn't belong. He graduated Muir High School and was accepted at Pasadena City College.

It was his ambition to be-

come a diplomat. He didn't make the grade and was dismissed from college after 1½ years, in March, 1965, because of failing marks in four subjects. And once again, another defeat.

He got a job working nights at a gas station and with his earnings he bet on the horses—hoping to make a fortune — and that would show them all that he was a somebody, that he belonged.

Once again, defeat, because, like many horse players, he lost.

He then got a job as an exercise boy at a thoroughbred ranch near Corona. He was hoping and ambitious to become a jockey — and a great one. Well, one foggy morning at the ranch he was thrown by a horse right into a rail, knocked unconscious and taken to an emergency hospital. He couldn't do much with horses after that. Another failure.

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Wrote a 'Declaration'

He complained about headaches, became more and more irritable, brooding, quick to anger, and preoccupied with fanatical obsessions of hatred, suspicion and distrust. He too to long hours of reading on the power of the mind.

In fact, on the 2d of June, 1967, as you will bear in mind that Arab-Israeli hostilities were occurring in the Middle East and war broke out on the 5th of June, 1967. But to repeat, on June 2, 1967, he wrote a — and I quote now, so you will have some concept of what kind of mind we and you the jury will be dealing with — "Declaration of War Against American Humanity," in which the following appears: "The victims of the party in favor of this declaration (now mind you, this is back in '67, not '68) will be or are now the President, Vice President, etc., down the ladder."

In this declaration he also wrote:

"The author of this memorandum expresses his wishes very bluntly that he wants to be recorded by history as the man who triggered off the last world war."

Three days later the six-day Arab-Israeli war broke out in the Middle East. He saw on television, heard on radio and read in the newspapers and the events of those days, and the defeat of the Arabs by the Israelis.

All of this triggered his spells. In his fantasies he was often a hero and savior of his people. In the realities of life, as our doctors will tell you, however, he was small, helpless, isolated, confused and bewildered by emotions over which he had absolutely no control.

He became concerned with mystical thoughts and searched for supernatural powers of the mind over matter. He started mystical experiments in his room. For example, he would concentrate on a hanging lead fishing sinker and make it swing back and forth by the power of his mind and concentration.

Bought a Revolver

In January of 1968, six months before the death of Senator Kennedy, he and his brother bought a .22-caliber Ivor Johnson revolver to use for sport, and Sirhan spent time shooting at various ranges. The shooting gave him, as doctors will tell you, a strange sense of release, but the mystical experiments gave him no peace of mind — only further bewilderment and emotional confusion. Then came another heavy

shock. In late May and early June of 1968, Senator Kennedy, who he himself will tell you he admired and loved, said during the campaign both in Oregon and California, in essence, that if he were President he would send 50 Phantom jets to Israel.

That did it, because from that point on back to mysticism went Sirhan. He concentrated in front of a mirror in his own room and thought about Senator Kennedy until at last he saw his own face no longer, but that of Senator Kennedy, in that mirror.

Sirhan will tell you himself from the witness stand that he never thought and never had a thought to kill Kennedy, but through his mystic mind power, the doctors will say, he could fantasize about it and relieve that feeling of emptiness within him.

Through a weird chain of circumstances, and while in a disturbed mental state, intoxicated and confused, he had the same spells that he had in Palestine. There is no doubt, and we have told you this from the beginning, that he did in fact fire the shot that killed Senator Kennedy.

That killing was unplanned, undeliberate, impulsive and without premeditation or malice, totally the product of a sick and obsessed mind and warped personality.

At the actual moment of shooting — now this isn't Berman talking, it is mental science talking — he was out of contact with reality, in a trance — that same kind of trance — in which he had no voluntary control over his will, his judgment, his feelings or his actions.

I do not expect, nor is it my desire, that you accept my statement as evidence. I tell you these matters because we will prove them through great men in the field of psychiatry and psychology — by tests that run the gamut of hypnosis, interviews and known and acceptable psychological tests and testing procedures.

You will be told in detail by these scientists how they perform these tests and that the tests conclusively show that because of mental illness and emotional disorder, Sirhan did not have the mental capacity, nor the mental state that is the essential element — an essential — of murder; namely maturely and meaningfully premeditate, deliberate or reflect upon the gravity of his act, nor form an intent to kill, nor harbor malice aforethought, as we believe these are defined by the laws of California.

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'IS EVERYBODY OK?' A-1

Jury Told Last RFK Words

By ROBERT WALTERS

Star Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — "I lean down and put my hand at the back of his head and try to do whatever I could to give aid," busboy Juan Romero told the hushed courtroom. "I said, 'Come on, Mr. Kennedy, you can make it.'"

"Mr. Kennedy" — the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy — didn't make it. He died 25 hours later in Good Samaritan Hospital here of gunshot wounds inflicted while shaking hands with Romero and other kitchen employees in a serving pantry at the Ambassador Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

And Romero, now a busboy in Santa Barbara, Calif., returned here yesterday to confront the man charged with Kennedy's alleged assassination and recount, in broken English, what occurred as he knelt at Kennedy's side in a futile effort to aid the fallen senator.

It was the photograph of Romero — his hand cupped behind Kennedy's head, his eyes staring vacantly and helplessly upward — that was perhaps the most vivid and best remembered of all the news pictures taken during the tumultuous moments following the shooting June 5.

While others scrambled to subdue and disarm the accused man, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, Romero stooped to aid Kennedy. The senator's only words before lapsing into a coma, the busboy recalled yesterday, were: "Is everybody OK?"

Romero recalled that Kennedy had only one eye open and "his left leg was kind of shaking" while sprawled on the serving pantry floor. And the busboy remembered that when he removed his hand from the senator's head, "there was blood dripping on my fingers."

The busboy told of one other gesture he made prior to the arrival of an ambulance — "a priest, or I don't know who gave me a rosary, and I put it in his hand."

Romero, employed by the Ambassador at the time of the slaying, was among five witnesses called to testify by the state as

the prosecution began presenting evidence yesterday to a Los Angeles County Superior Court jury in an effort to convict Sirhan of first-degree murder.

Prior to the appearance of the five witnesses — the first of an estimated 60 to 80 persons prepared to testify against Sirhan — one of the defendant's three attorneys, Emile Zola Berman, presented an opening argument in which he pictured his client as a young man suffering from spells, trances and mystic delusions.

Berman said Sirhan would "tell you himself from this witness stand that he never thought he ever would kill Kennedy" — the first public disclosure that the defendant would testify personally when the defense presents its case.

Berman also told the jury that "great men in the fields of psychiatry and psychology" also would testify in Sirhan's behalf and present the results of "tests that run the gamut of hypnosis, interviews and accepted psychological tests and testing procedures."

In both cases, the witnesses will attempt to prove that "at the actual moment of the shooting, he (Sirhan) was out of contact with reality, in a trance in which he had no voluntary control over his will, his judgment, his feelings or his actions," Berman said.

War in 1947 Cited

"Sirhan is an immature, emotionally disturbed and mentally ill youth," said the defense lawyer, tracing the roots of that psychological trouble back to when Sirhan was 3 years old and war broke out between the Palestinian Arabs and Zionists in Palestine in 1947.

Sirhan was then living with his family in Jerusalem.

"One night, the building he lived in became a machine gun nest. On another night, his very home was bombed," Berman said. "He was exposed to the most severe, repeated scenes of war, with such effects upon him to leave their mark upon his personality all during his life, up to and including the present."

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As Berman spoke, however, Sirhan first vigorously shook his head in disagreement then rose briefly from his chair in a brief outburst to protest the psychological characterization. Apparently agitated by the description of mental illness, Sirhan first murmured, "No, no," then rose from his seat before being calmed down by a defense investigator.

On one occasion in Palestine, Berman said, "Sirhan saw a little girl's leg blown off by a bomb, and the blood spurted off from below her knee, as though from a faucet. He went into a spell, he stiffened, his face contorted, he was out of contact with reality."

"In Trance 4 Days"

After a bombing, Sirhan "remained in a trance for four days," the jury was told. At another time, "He lost all sense of where he was or what was happening around him."

The war finally ended, but Sirhan's troubles were just beginning, Berman said. The defendant's parents were divorced, he was dismissed from college because of failing grades and he was unable to hold a steady job.

"He complained about headaches, became more and more irritable, brooding, quick to anger, and preoccupied with fanatical obsessions of hatred, suspicion and distrust," Berman said.

The lawyer told the jury that on June 2, 1967—as Arab-Israeli hostilities were again rising just three days prior to the outbreak of the "six-day war," Sirhan wrote a memo to himself entitled: "Declaration of war against American humanity."

That memo said, in part: "The victims of the party in favor of this declaration will be or are now the president, vice president, etc., down the ladder. . . . The author of this memorandum expresses his wishes very bluntly that he wants to be recorded by history as the man who triggered off the last war."

Tells of "Fantasies"

Arguing that Sirhan suffered from "diminished capacity and mental deficiency," Berman said of his client:

"In his spells, his fantasies, he was often a hero and savior of his people. In the realities of life, however, he was small, helpless, isolated, confused and bewildered by emotions over which he had no control.

"He was unable to plan or think clearly, unable to maintain any meaningful direction to his life. He became concerned with mystical thoughts and searched for supernatural powers of the mind over matter. He started mystical experiments in his room."

Among those experiments, said Berman, were efforts at self-hypnosis by staring at a hanging lead fishing sinker and at a flickering candle.

Sirhan "admired and loved" Kennedy, but received a heavy shock when the senator, campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination last Spring, publicly advocated the United States sale of 50 Phantom jet fighter planes to Israel, the jury was told.

Sirhan then concentrated in front of a mirror in his own room and thought about Kennedy until at last he saw his own face no longer, but that of Kennedy himself in the mirror," Berman said.

Defense lawyers questioned three of the five prosecution witnesses who appeared yesterday about the presence of large mirrors in a room leading into the ballroom where Kennedy spoke only minutes before being shot. They apparently are planning to tie together those mirrors and the one mentioned in Berman's opening statement.

"There is no doubt—and we have told you this from the beginning—that he (Sirhan) did in fact fire the shot that killed Kennedy," Berman said. "The killing was unplanned and undeliberate, impulsive and without premeditation or malice, totally a product of a sick, obsessed mind and personality."

The attorney added: "At the actual moment of the shooting, he was out of contact with reality, in a trance in which he had no voluntary control over his will, his judgment, his feelings or his actions . . .

"Because of mental illness and emotional disorder, Sirhan did not have the mental capacity to have the mental states that are the essential elements of murder, namely maturely and meaningfully premeditate, deliberate or reflect upon the gravity of his act, nor form an intent to kill nor harbor malice aforethought."



JUAN ROMERO

'Loved and Admired RFK', Sirhan Says

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15 (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan will testify he "loved and admired" Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the man he is accused of assassinating.

Sirhan's attorneys, who described the 24-year-old Palestinian Arab as "mentally ill," will take the stand to tell his murder trial jury he indeed deeply admired Sen. Kennedy, associate defense counsel Emile Zola Berman told the court yesterday.

In the first day of testimony yesterday, the prosecution called five witnesses, most of them employees of the Ambassador Hotel where the New York Senator was shot June 5.

SIRHAN IN FRANCE

In his statement, Mr. Berman admitted Sirhan fired the bullet that killed Sen. Kennedy but said he was in a trance and intoxicated. He said as a boy the defendant became subject to spells and trances after witnessing violence in Arab-Israeli warfare.

Sirhan came to the U.S. at the age of 12 and always felt like an outsider, according to Mr. Berman. He maintained a lively interest in world affairs and had delusions of grandeur about a role he could play.

This developed to the point where he was badly affected by Mr. Kennedy's pledge to give 50 Phantom jet fighters to Israel to use against the Arabs, Sirhan's own people.

SIRHAN REACTS

Sirhan reacted strongly, whispered in agitation to another defense attorney, Russell Parsons, and shook his head.

One prosecution witness, Juan Romero, a hotel busboy failed to identify Sirhan as the gunman when called.

Three other witnesses, all hotel employees, definitely identified Sirhan as the gunman.



—UPI Photos

When the jurors at the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan reconvene they'll have a model of The Ambassador Hotel, where Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was slain, for ready reference.

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Sirhan Defense Contends He Killed While in Trance

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14—Attorneys for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan said today that when he killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a man he "admired and loved," Sirhan was out of contact with reality, in a trance.

In his opening statement, Emile Zola Berman, New York lawyer, pictured the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant as an "immature, emotionally disturbed and mentally ill youth."

Mr. Berman, thin, baldish, 66 years old, stood at a lectern before the jury, peering through reading glasses at a prepared text as he recounted in a slightly rasping voice Sirhan's early years as a Palestinian Arab.

Setbacks Depicted

The slight, dark-haired defendant, Mr. Berman said, not only was uprooted by the Palestinian war but also was emotionally scarred by the violence that erupted around him when he was only 3 years old.

"For example," Mr. Berman told the crowded eighth-floor courtroom in the Hall of Justice, "Sirhan saw a little girl's leg blown off by a bomb and the blood spurting from below her knee, as though from a faucet. 'He went into a spell,' he stiffened, his face contorted, he was out of contact with reality, and lost all sense of where he was or what was happening to him."

From this point on, as Mr. Berman described it, Sirhan's life was a series of setbacks, rejections, large dreams and repeated failures.

As the attorney dwelt upon Sirhan's "fanatical obsessions of hatred, suspicion and distrust" and his constant defeats in life, the defendant, his dark eyes bright and glistening, rose half out of his chair at the defense table. Leaning toward Russell E. Parsons, another attorney, and Michael McCowan, chief defense investigator, Sirhan chopped the air with his hands as if to try to halt Mr. Berman, shook his head agitately and whispered frantically.

Later, Mr. McCowan said, Sirhan had not read the statement before it was delivered by Mr. Berman.

"Of course, he doesn't believe it," Mr. McCowan said, "and when you're saying unkind things about him he doesn't like it."

When Sirhan started to rise out of his chair, the investigator placed a firm arm around the sheriff's department stood behind Sirhan, placing his hand on the defendant's back.

Mr. McCowan said later Mr. Conroy had urged:

"Mike, talk to him."

"I told him [Sirhan] to calm his shoulders and spoke to him rapidly."

Inspector William Conroy of down," Mr. McCowan said, "we had to put these things in. He just kept saying, 'No, no.'"

Resumes Smiles

As Mr. Berman continued, Sirhan became visibly quieter and resumed smiling and chatting with others at the table.

"He was calmed down at the end," Mr. McCowan said, "and thanked Mr. Berman at the end for his speech."

During the opening statement, Sirhan's mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, and a brother, Munir, 21, sat outwardly impassive in the front row of the heavily guarded, 75-seat courtroom.

Mr. Berman said that after a fall from a horse Sirhan "complained about headaches, became more and more irritable, brooding, quick to anger and preoccupied with fanatical obsessions of hatred, suspicion and distrust."

"He took to long hours of reading works on the power of the mind," Mr. Berman said, and began writing, on June 2, 1967, just three days before the six-day Arab-Israeli war broke out, such things as:

"The author of this memorandum expresses his wishes very bluntly that he wants to be recorded by history as the man who triggered off the last world horse players, he lost."

Mr. Berman said that when Sirhan read about Arab defeats by the Israelis it triggered his spells.

"In his fantasies he was often a hero and savior of his people," the attorney added. "In the realities of life, as our doctors will tell you, however, he was small, helpless, isolated, confused and bewildered by emotions over which he had absolutely no control."

Mr. Berman said Sirhan then became "concerned with mystical thoughts and searched for supernatural powers of the mind over matter," indulging in mystical experiments akin, at least, to self-hypnosis.

'Another Heavy Shock'

"Then came another heavy shock," the attorney said as the 12 alternates and six jurors listened intently, some leaning forward to hear over the street noises that penetrated the steel sheets blocking the courtroom windows.

Mr. Berman went on:

"In late May and early June of 1968, Senator Kennedy, who he himself will tell you he admired and loved, said during the campaign both in Oregon and California, in essence, that if he were President he would send 50 Phantom jets to Israel."

"That did it, because from that point on, back to mysticism went Sirhan. He concentrated in front of a mirror in his own room and thought and thought about Senator Kennedy until at that point he saw his own face that of Sen-

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UNDER E.O. 14176

Sirhan Loved Sen. Kennedy & Killed in Trance, Jury Told

By THEO WILSON

Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Los Angeles, Feb. 14—Sirhan Sirhan was a sick "mystic" living in a strange world of fantasy and obsession, and when he killed Robert F. Kennedy, a man he "admired and loved," he was "out of contact with reality, in a trance . . ."

Defense attorney Emile Zola Berman, describing the young Jordanian in this way to his murder trial jurors today, told them:

"According to methods he read in a book he acquired, he concentrated in front of a mirror in his own room and thought about Sen. Kennedy until at last he saw his own face no longer, but that of Sen. Kennedy himself in the mirror."

War Experiences Cited

The 24-year-old defendant, according to the New York lawyer, had then, and "has, a mind torn apart by childhood experiences in the Arab-Israeli war and by youthful bewilderment and frustrations as an immigrant here.

"At the actual moment of shooting," Berman said, "he was out of contact with reality, in a trance in which he had no voluntary control over his will, his judgment, his feelings or his actions."

Goal of Defense

To save Sirhan from the gas chamber, the defense must show that he was mentally incapable of first degree murder, and Berman described the defendant as "immature, emotionally disturbed, mentally ill."

Sirhan shook his head in the negative when Berman said this and got so excited that co-counsel Russell Parsons and chief investigator Mike McCowan had to pull him down and tell him to be still.

Later Parsons said: "He resents anyone calling him mentally ill. He even resents me saying it." Parsons is the lawyer Sirhan feels closest to, since he handled his case from the outset.

Berman told the jurors many times that doctors would prove that Sirhan was mentally disturbed.

He said that it was a "heavy shock" to Sirhan when in late May and early June of 1968, Kennedy, "whom he admired and loved, said during the campaign . . . that if he were President he would send 50 phantom jets to Israel. That did it! back to mysticism."

Here Berman described the mirror experiments and added:

"Sirhan will tell you himself from this witness stand that he never thought he ever would kill Kennedy, but through his mystic mind power he could fantasize about it and relieve that feeling of emptiness inside him."

Berman made an opening statement designed to challenge the state's contention that Sirhan plotted Kennedy's murder last June 6 at the Ambassador Hotel here and killed him in cold blood.

Berman, who is Jewish, had described the "spells" earlier while telling the 12 jurors and six alternates about the violence and horror Sirhan was exposed to as a child "when war broke out between the Palestinian Arabs and Zionists in Palestine in 1947."

Berman described Sirhan's schooling and jobs here and told how he fell from a horse while trying to become a jockey. After that he "complained about headaches, became more and more irritable, brooding, quick to anger, preoccupied with fanatical obsessions of hatred, suspicion and distrust. He took to long hours of reading works on the power of the mind," he said.

Then the lawyer said that, shortly before the June 1967 war between the Arabs and Israel, Sirhan wrote a "declaration of war against American humanity."

Threat Spelled Out

In that declaration, Sirhan wrote:

"The victims of the party in favor of the declaration will be or are now the President, vice president, etc. down the ladder.

"The author of this memoranda expresses his wishes very bluntly that he wants to be recorded by history as the man who triggered off the last war."

Berman said he gathered from

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this that Sirhan meant "the last war to ever be. And there were other such writings, clear evidence of diminished capacity and mental deficiency."

Sirhan had spells, fantasized himself as "a hero and savior of his people . . . but was small, helpless, isolated, confused and bewildered," Berman said.

Then the attorney described Sirhan as becoming "concerned with mystical thoughts . . . searching for supernatural powers of the mind over matter."

Power of Mind

"For example, he would concentrate on a hanging lead fishing sinker and make it swing back and forth by the power of his mind.

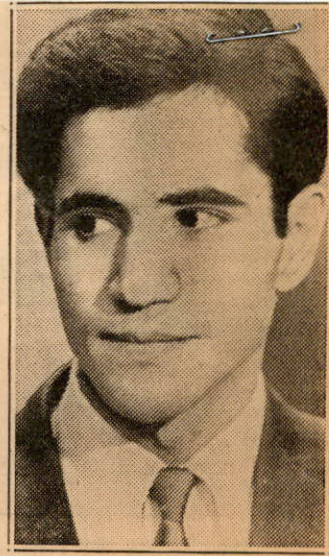
"He would concentrate on a candle flame and make it dance, first to the right, then to the left."

Six months before Kennedy was killed, Berman said, Sirhan bought a .22-caliber Iver Johnson revolver and spent time shooting at various ranges. This, Berman said, gave Sirhan "a strange sense of release but the mystical experiments gave him no peace of mind."

After describing Sirhan's trance-like state at the time Kennedy was killed, Berman told the jurors that what he had said to them would be bolstered by evidence from psychiatric experts to prove Sirhan could not have committed first degree murder "because of mental illness and emotional disorder."



Emile Zola Berman



Sirhan Sirhan

Lawyer and client differ on mental state

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Tells of Fatal Change in Plans

Los Angeles, Feb. 14 (Special)—The man who was closest to Robert F. Kennedy when he was shot, and who was the first to grab Sirhan Sirhan's gun hand, testified today it was only at the last minute that the senator's plans were changed about what room in the Ambassador Hotel he was going to after making his victory speech.

This change brought Kennedy directly into the path of his admitted assassin shortly after midnight June 5, 1968.

State witness Carl Uecker, an assistant maitre d' at the hotel, told Sirhan's jurors—who were taking notes and watching him intently as he pointed out the hotel murder scene on a large mock-up—that he escorted Kennedy from the Embassy Ballroom immediately after the presidential candidate made his talk there to a cheering crowd.

Speaking with a German accent, his voice sometimes thickened with emotion, Uecker said:

"I took the senator behind the stage through the doors. We were

going to make a left turn to the Ambassador Ballroom (Where Kennedy was going to make another victory speech to an overflow crowd) when somebody—I don't remember who—said: "No, we're going to the Colonial Room. The decision was made in the last minutes . . ."

Uecker said this answering questions from assistant prosecutor John Howard.

Defense attorney Grant Cooper, who is trying to prove that Sirhan's killing of Kennedy was not "premeditated" or "willful," made much of this point during cross-examination.

Just before he was shot, Kennedy "was very happy," Uecker said, his voice thick. "I had a hold of his right arm. He broke away from me to shake hands. When he shook hands I looked over and saw something coming closer and closer. I said: 'Let's go, senator.'"

"I turned to my right. Something rushed next to me, in front of me, pushing me against the steam table. I heard shots, something like a firecracker, then more shots. I turned my head, I lost the senator, there was a man with a gun in his hand. I grabbed for the gun." Uecker said.

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Sirhan Defended As 'Sick'

RFK Slaying Called Product Of Obsession

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14

—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's lawyers opened the defense today by calling him a "sick and obsessed" mystic who killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a hypnotic trance.

The young Palestinian Arab had to be physically restrained as defense counsel Emile Zola Berman went before a Superior Court jury here to pass off his client as one of life's losers, a failure "preoccupied with fantastical obsessions of hatred, suspicion and distrust."

The frail, 24-year-old defendant jumped to the edge of the seat, plainly upset. He shook his head back and forth, and murmured "no, no." His eyes seemed to be glistening.

Asks for Help

Inspector William Conroy, the sheriff's deputy in charge of security, put a hand on the defendant's back and muttered to chief defense investigator Michael McCowan for help.

"I had to physically put him down," McCowan said later. "He'd never read the statement."

"We said he was emotionally ill, and quick to anger. That's what he is. But he doesn't believe it. He doesn't think there's anything wrong with him."

The state has accused the young immigrant of calculated, cold-blooded murder, deserving of the gas chamber. The defense contends that he was not only in a "confused" trance-like stupor, but that he was also "intoxicated"—assertedly from three drinks belted down during the political partying that spread through the Ambassador Hotel shortly before the assassination last June 5.

Only a vague, one-word allusion to liquor was made in the courtroom today, however. In his dramatic but brief opening statement, Berman concentrated instead on what he called Sirhan's emotional and mental illness.

"There is no doubt," he said, that Sirhan "did in fact fire the shot that killed Sen. Kennedy."

Called Unplanned

But, the balding lawyer said, "That killing was unplanned and undeliberate, impulsive and without premeditation or malice—totally the product of a sick and obsessed mind and warped personality."

"At the actual moment of the shooting," Berman went on, "he was out of contact with reality, in a trance... in which he had no voluntary control over his will, his judgment, his feelings and his actions."

Later, in their questioning of prosecution witnesses, the defense sought to hint that a bank of mirrors near the entrance to the hotel's Embassy Room may have been instrumental in putting him under a spell.

Sirhan, Berman said, even used to conduct "mystical experiments in his room," concentrating on a hanging lead sinker and making it swing back and forth "by the power of his mind," or looking at a candle flame and making it dance, "first to the right and then to the left."

Sirhan abandoned such practices for awhile, the attorney declared, but after Sen. Kennedy advocated sending some 50 Phantom jets to Israel, Sirhan went "back to mysticism."

At times, the jury was told, he would stare into the mirror in his room and think about the Senator "until at last, he saw his own face no longer, but that of Senator Kennedy."

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"Now this isn't Berman talking," the lawyer kept repeating. "Men of science," he said, would attest to it. Sirhan, he insisted, actually admired and loved" the New York Senator.

The sickness, the 65-year-old Jewish attorney said, began when war broke out between Palestinian Arabs and Zionists in Palestine in 1947.

Sirhan was only three years old then, but the street he lived on, the attorney said, was rocked by gunfire. In fact, he said, it "became the dividing line between the Jews on the one side and the Arabs on the other."

One night, Berman told the jurors, many of them busily scribbling notes, the building he lived in became a machine gun nest. On another night, his home was bombed. The horrors of war sank in deeply. It was then, Berman said, that he first went into a spell.

As a child, he said, Sirhan saw a little girl's leg blown off by a bomb, "the blood spurt- ing from below her knee, as though from a faucet. He went into a spell, he stiffened, his face contorted, he was out of contact with reality, and lost all sense of where he was or what was happening to him."

On another occasion, a bomb exploded while Sirhan was playing near the Damascus Gate. He "remained in a trance for four days," Berman said. It happened still again, he told the jury, when a bomb exploded outside the window of the Sirhan flat and tore a man apart.

On coming to America, Sirhan was a repeated failure—an outsider at high school "who just didn't fit in," a college reject who was dismissed in his sophomore year because of failing marks in four subjects. He got a job at a gas station and played the horses with his earnings. "And once again," Berman said, "defeat."

From there, he tried to become a jockey, but he was thrown from a horse and that ended that. "Another failure."

It was here that Sirhan stirred in his seat and began protesting. But Berman went on. Sirhan, he said, became more irritable, brooding and preoccupied. He took to reading books on mysticism and making jottings in notebooks.

The attorney read one entry, dated June 2, 1967. It was styled a "Declaration of war against American human- ity."

In it, the unpredictable Jordanian immigrant wrote that "the victims of the party in favor of this declaration will be or are now the President, the Vice-President, etc., down the ladder."

"The author of this memo- randa," Sirhan also wrote, "ex- presses his wishes very bluntly that he wants to be re- corded by history as the man who triggered off the last world war."

By that, Berman said, "I gather he meant the last war ever to be."

Three days later, the six-day Arab-Israeli war broke out. Sirhan saw and heard re- peated accounts of the light- ning Israeli victory.

"All this," Berman said, "triggered his spells. In his fantasies he was often a hero and savior of his peo- ple. In the realities of life, however, as our doctor will tell you, he was small, help- less, isolated, confused and bewildered by emotions over which he had absolutely no control."

It was then that "the mysti- cal experiments" were said to have started. Then six months before the assassination Sirhan and his brother bought a .22-caliber revolver.

Sirhan tried it out at var- ious gun ranges around Los Angeles. "The shooting," Ber- man said, "gave him a strange sense of release," much more than mysticism had done.

Sen. Kennedy's advocacy of jets for Israel, however, came as a "heavy shock." Sirhan, Berman said, would act out his anger by staring into the mir-

ror, and fantasize about kill- ing the New York Senator.

But the defendant, the attor- ney declared, never really thought he would actually do it. The slaying, Berman as- serted, came about "through a weird chain of circumstances" while Sirhan was "in a dis- turbed mental state . . . that same kind of trance" that he had as a boy in Palestine.

"We ask you to listen to the evidence, to adopt what sci- ence has to offer, to consult your conscience," Berman con- cluded. "In short, let true jus- tice be done."

By then, the mercurial Sir- han had changed moods com- pletely, smiling broadly as his lawyer stepped away from the lectern. Later, Berman told a reporter, Sirhan was calling the speech "just great."

The prosecution began call- ing its witnesses as soon as Berman was done. The first to give substantive testimony was Karl Uecker, 36, husky, red-haired assistant maitre d' at the Ambassador Hotel. He had been guiding Sen. Ken- nedy through a pantryway in back of the hotel's Embassy Room when Sirhan shot the Senator down.

The 190-pound Uecker said he grabbed the assailant, clamped him in a headlock with his right arm, and bent him over a steam table, and with his free arm, grabbed Sirhan's gun hand by the wrist but Sirhan "kept on shooting . . . kept on shoot- ing."

Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper emphasized the struggle during cross-exami- nation, in an attempt to sug- gest that the 112-pound Sirhan had a fanatical, almost inex- plicable grip on the revolver. "He had a very strong grip," Uecker acknowledged. "I couldn't get the gun."

Vincent Dipierro, a college student and part-time waiter at the Ambassador, said he was standing about five feet from the Senator when the first bullet, and apparently the fatal one, struck Kennedy be- hind the ear.

"His head reared back," Dipierro testified. Suddenly, he said, "I had blood on my glasses . . . blood all over my face."

Before that, he asserted, he noticed Sirhan with "well, you could call it a smirk or a sub- smile on his face . . . a semi- smile."

It was Dipierro who told a Los Angeles County grand jury last June that he saw a girl in a polka dot dress with "a very good looking figure" apparently chat- ting with Sirhan moments before the shooting, but there were no polka dots today. Investigators say Dipierro has admitted making that up to embellish his story.

Today's witnesses also included Juan Romero, 18, a busboy who wound up cradling Kennedy's head in his hands, blood dripping onto his fingers as the Senator lay on the floor. He pressed a rosary into the dying man's hands.

"I said, 'Come on, Senator, you can make it,'" Romero testified in quick, jerky syllables.

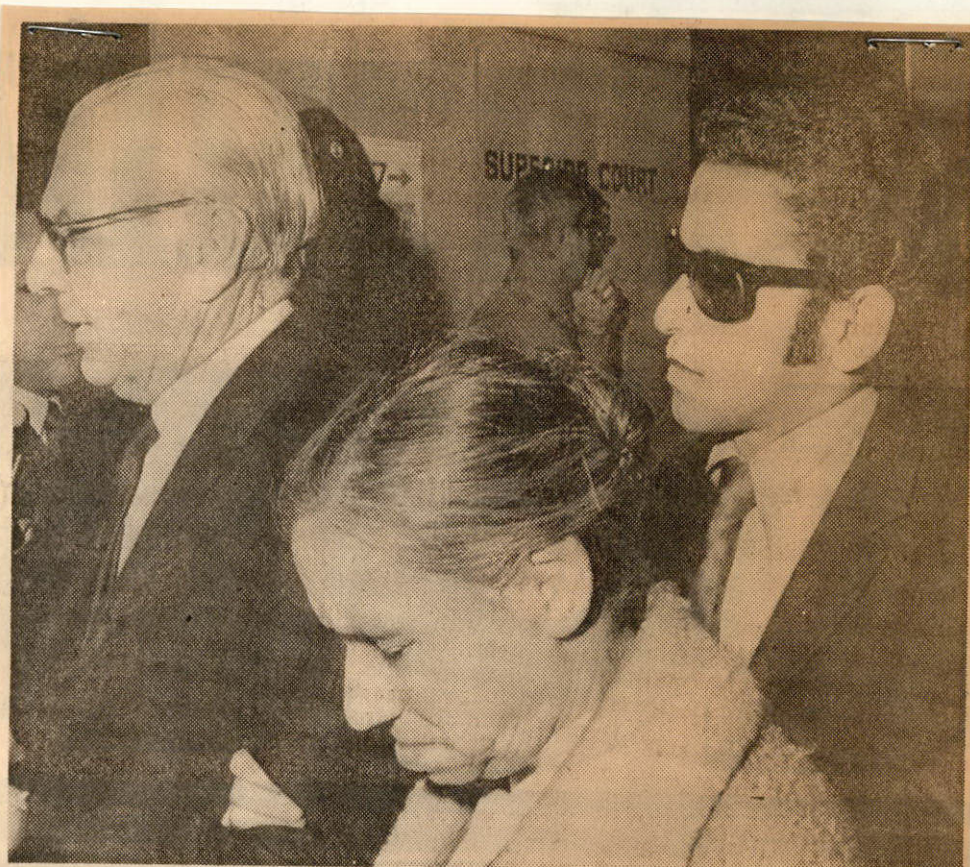
Prosecutor John Howard asked the unhappy busboy if he saw Sen. Kennedy's assailant in the courtroom. Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker told Sirhan to stand up.

Romero stole a quick glance and turned away uneasily. "No," he said, "I don't believe that's him."

"What did he say?" Sirhan asked defense investigator McCowan.

"He said it wasn't you," McCowan replied.

"Oh," Sirhan Sirhan said with a grin, "you're kidding."



United Press International

Russell Parsons, left, a defense attorney for Sirhan, his brother, Munir Sirhan, and

mother, Mary, leave courtroom Thursday after motion for a mistrial was denied.

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Sirhan Jury Has Night Out At the Movies

By THEO WILSON
 Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Los Angeles, Feb. 15—Sirhan Sirhan's jurors went to see "The Odd Couple" at a Hollywood studio last night, then spent a relaxing rainy Saturday today.

Judge Herbert V. Walker also is expected to come to the Brookmore Hotel during the weekend to meet the families and personally give them the court's thanks for the sacrifice they are making.

Bailiff Willard Polhemus said: "Some of the ladies are having their hair done, and some of the men are having haircuts. They are going any place they wish, accompanied by a deputy."

Polhemus explained that as long as the jurors were not in deliberation, they could be separated, with a guard provided to make sure nobody tried to talk to them.

He said nothing special was planned today. Tomorrow, if the weather improves, the 12 jurors and six alternates, with husbands and wives, will be taken in a sheriff's bus on a drive to the Santa Monica area, back through Westwood and Beverly Hills, with a stop at some restaurant for dinner.

The bailiff said that the eight men and four women on the regular jury and the three men and three women who are alternates spent about three hours last night at the private film showing. He said that they enjoyed the picture.

Cross-Examination Monday

Sirhan's trial in the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy will resume Monday with the cross-examination by the defense of Vince DiPierro. Yesterday the Santa Monica City College student described the shooting.

DiPierro is also a part-time waiter at the Hotel Ambassador; scene of the assassination June 5, 1963. His father, Angelo DiPierro, is the Hotel's Maitre d'.

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FROM Wash Post Times Herald

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46 FEB 24 1969

Sirhan Defense Pulls Out All the Stops to Prove Case

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer
LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15—It promises to be a bizarre trial. Only the hashish seems to be missing.

Except for that, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's lawyers appear to have claimed all the ingredients that can be used under California's theory of "diminished responsibility" to counter a first-degree murder charge.

Defense counsel Emile Zola Berman, a thin, canny New York attorney, ticked them off in the courtroom yesterday in a dramatic, brutally explicit opening statement: obsession, anger, fear, even liquor.

Sirhan, Berman suggested, was under the influence of them all when he assassinated

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel here last June. Only drugs, which can also be claimed to disprove murder in cold blood, were left out.

In a sense, the defense is saying, the killing was done with mirrors. The flyweight Arab immigrant, his lawyers say, used to stare into the mirror in his bedroom, acting out his anger at Kennedy for supporting Israel, until he could actually see the Senator's face instead of his own.

"Sirhan will tell you himself from the witness stand that he never thought, and never had a thought, to (actually) kill Kennedy," the jurors were

told, "but through his mystic mind power, the doctors will say, he could fantasize about it and relieve that feeling of emptiness within him."

In the background were the horrors of the 1947 Arab-Israeli war that were said to have sent the little Palestinian into a trance even as a boy; an adolescence of all-nighter and preoccupation with mysticism and trances—some self-imposed some assertedly involuntary.

Then came the night of the assassination. Fueled by a few drinks, the defense contends, Sirhan found himself wandering near the Embassy Room of the Ambassador, where Kennedy was to give a victory speech celebrating his success in California's Democratic presidential primary.

There, says his lawyers, the twisted young man with a gun found mirrors all over. And there, they assert, not long afterwards, he killed Kennedy "in a trance—that same kind of trance" that he had as a child in war-torn Palestine.

It is a fascinating theory, but one that the State of California, not surprisingly, refuses to buy.

Four days before the shooting, Sirhan walked into a San Gabriel gun shop and bought the ammunition that was apparently used to kill the New York Senator. Three days before, the prosecution disclosed, several witnesses saw Sirhan hanging around the Ambassador at a day-long Sunday reception for Kennedy, and then later in the hotel kitchen next to the pantry, where the Senator was eventually shot.

Then, too, there were the long hours Sirhan spent at a suburban gun range, practicing rapid-fire shooting the afternoon before the assassination. And there was his presence in the hotel, with a .22 caliber revolver in his trousers, hours before the slaying.

It was done, the State contends, not with mirrors but with "malice of forethought."

The prosecution, however, did not stress its demands for the gas chamber in the past week. District Attorney Evelle J. Younger and his aides appeared ready at several points to be willing to settle for a life-in-prisonment agreement with the defense that would have precluded a full-scale trial.

In the end, the mercurial defendant and his lawyers decided against it. With Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker unwilling to consent to a guilty plea that would have made a life term automatic, they would have had to take the question of penalty to the jurors.

The prosecution was apparently willing not to urge the death penalty, but the jury could still return such a verdict. Sirhan's lawyers huddled with him Wednesday in his windowless, T-shaped cell five floors above the Hall of Justice courtroom, where he is being tried, and mulled over the prospects.

Among other things, the attorneys pointed out, the only guilty plea open to them would provide no absolute guarantee against the death penalty.

"The hell with it," Sirhan has said to have decided at length. The trial began the next day.

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Part of a page dated May 18, 1968 in one of Sirhan's notebooks introduced at his trial. Entire picture, Page A4.

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Associated Press

46 FEB 27 1969

Sirhan: 'RFK Must Be Killed...'

By George Lardner Jr.
 Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's wild, disjointed writings—full of venom for the United States and its political leaders—were made public today amid a rash of bitter outbursts from the young Arab.

Sirhan was so distraught over the introduction of the notebooks that he said he would rather plead guilty to the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and die in the gas chamber than have the public think he was getting a fair trial.

"He's blown his top," chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper told reporters later. "He doesn't know what the hell he's doing."

The rambling notes introduced by the prosecution spilled over with hatred.

The young Palestinian repeatedly jotted down the injunction to himself, "RFK must die—RFK must be killed . . . Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated, assassinated, assassinated, assassinated . . . Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before 5 June 68." An entry dated May 18

showed

In another "dissertation" that was kept from the jury as being too inflammatory, Sirhan, 24, proclaimed his support of "the Communist cause and its people—whether Russian, Chinese, Albanian, Bulgarian or whatever."

Sirhan, the notes also disclosed, had then United Nations Ambassador Arthur Goldberg marked for assassination, at least in his mind's eye. On one page of his notebooks that began almost unintelligibly with scrawlings about a "saffire stone," Sirhan wrote:

"Ambassador Goldberg must die die die die." Of Goldberg, the notation added, "mee(t) at the airport."

Goldberg, it was understood, was scheduled to make a speech in Los Angeles around the time that Sirhan shot Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel last June 5. The U.N. Ambassador, however, did not keep the engagement.

Sirhan seethed over the disclosures all day, starting with a prolonged and agonizing conference this morning in Judge Herbert V. Walker's private chambers. It was there that he blurted out that he wanted to plead guilty. The Judge told him to listen to his lawyers.

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SIRHAN, From A1

The moody defendant was quieted down, but not for long. Moving into the courtroom, Sirhan could barely contain himself as the prosecution pressed for introduction of eight pages of his writings all seized from his bedroom in Pasadena while Kennedy lay dying last June 5.

Defense Counsel Cooper conceded that most of the notations were "relevant" to the case, but he protested stiffly against two pages that he called both "immaterial" and "prejudicial."

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lynn D. Compton countered by saying that the handwritten "dissertation," jotted down on two sides of a single sheet of paper, was full of insights into Sirhan's state of mind.

With the jury out of the courtroom for the argument, Compton steamed into a summary of the contested pages when Sirhan half-lunged out of his seat.

"Wait a minute," he shouted, "it hasn't been admitted into evidence yet."

Chief Defense Investigator Michael A. McCowan grabbed him by both shoulders and held him in his chair.

On these two pages, superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker agreed with the defense.

"The court," he announced, "feels the inflammatory nature of these documents far outweighs their probative value."

Judge Walker, however, rejected Cooper's plea for a special court order to keep the pages from the press. The judge said he felt the jury was safely sequestered and Compton insisted that it was "in the interests of the public and the nation to know what the defendant thought about this country."

In this document, Sirhan said he not only supported "the Communist cause" but also that:

"I advocate the overthrow of the current President of the (obscenity) United States of America. I have no absolute plans yet—but soon will compose some."

"I am poor," Sirhan went on in the undated writing that he styled "equality before and after the law." Yet, he said "this country's propaganda says that she is the best country in the world—I have not experienced this yet."

"The U. S. says that life in Russia is bad—why—supposedly no average American has ever lived in a Slavic society so how can he tell if it is good or bad—isn't his gov't putting words in his mouth."

"Anyway," the introverted young immigrant wrote on, "I believe that the U.S. is ready to start declining at a faster rate so that the real Utopia will not be too far from being realized during the early 70's in this country."

The so-called dissertation concluded by proclaiming, repeatedly, "workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains and a world to win."

Sirhan signed it with his nickname, "Sol," and polished it off with a few words in Arabic.

Date 8/21/11

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Scribbles from Sirhan's diary.

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Sirhan Talked About Killing, Jury Is Told

By George Lardner Jr.
 Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 21—A hard Pasasena trash collector swore today that Sirhan told him not to waste his primary vote on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy because he was planning to shoot "the son of a B."

Testifying in a quick burst of syllables that startled the courtroom, Alvin Clark said the young Arab made the threat just a few days after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4.

Under cross-examination the lanky witness acknowledged that he once declared that he would "do anything to see (Sirhan) convicted," but he insisted that he was telling the truth.

It was a Wednesday, trash collection day on East Howard Street where Sirhan lived, Clark recalled, and the slender immigrant walked up to Sirhan as he often did.

See SIRHAN, A6, Col. 4

Jury Told Sirhan Aired Intent to Kill

SIRHAN, From A1

"He was upset somewhat about the death of Luther King," the Negro sanitation worker recalled. "He asked me how the Negro people felt about it . . . 'What do you think the Negro people are going to do about it?'"

"What Can we Do?"

Clark shrugged. "I said that I mean, 'Like what can we do about it? There wasn't but one person involved.'"

Then, he said, Sirhan asked him how he felt about California's upcoming presidential primaries, still weeks away.

"I told him I was going to vote for Kennedy," Clark said. "and Sirhan said, 'What are you going to vote for that son of a B for? Because I'm planning on shooting him.'"

Sirhan stirred in his seat on the other side of the antiquated courtroom. A smile crossed his face. Abruptly he put his hand over it and leaned over to whisper to chief defense counsel Russell Parsons.

Clark went on. "I said, 'You'd be killing one of the best men in the country.' he said he told Sirhan."

The trash collector, whom Sirhan used to serve coffee and sandwiches, said he reminded the defendant that Kennedy had sent his plane to Memphis to pick up Dr. King's widow and his body for the Negro leader's funeral in Atlanta.

Sirhan, he said, passed that off. "He said he did this for publicity—Kennedy did."

Defense attorney Emile Zola Berman rose to attack the trash collector's testimony. Clark, Berman noted, had been interviewed by an FBI agent last September.

"Didn't you tell the FBI that you would hate to take the oath and testify because you hated Sirhan so much you would do anything to see him convicted?" Berman demanded. "Yes, I did," Clark replied.

Swears It's True

"Have you told the truth here, sir?" prosecutor David N. Fitts countered.

"Yes, I did," Clark said.

He was followed to the stand by two witnesses who told of seeing Sirhan apparently stalking Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel last June 2, some 2½ days before the assassination.

The occasion was a Sunday evening reception for the Democratic presidential candidate. Kennedy, the jury was told, first gave a speech in the Coconut Grove nightclub at the hotel, then moved through backstage corridors to get to the hotel's Palm Terrace, where more supporters were waiting to hear another pep talk.

Headwaiter Angelo Dipierro said he escorted Kennedy through the back way after the first speech, delivered around 8:30 p.m. I took them through the pantry where, Sirhan has admitted, he shot the Senator down in the early morning of June 5.

Long-haired William Blume, 18, said he saw Sirhan first. The two had worked as stock-boys in adjoining stores in Pasadena and Blume said he recognized the Jordanian im-

migrant in the crowded hotel lobby around 8:45 p.m.

The crowd was moving toward the Palm Terrace to hear Kennedy's second speech, Blume said. He said Sirhan was struggling against it, moving in the direction of the hotel's Embassy Room and the pantry where Kennedy was coming through.

The New York Senator finished his second talk around 9:30 p.m. Miriam Davis, a volunteer Kennedy hostess, said she saw Sirhan next. Mrs. Davis was with her husband and teen-age daughter.

"My daughter is 17," Mrs. Davis said, "and she was interested in finding the dressing rooms of the stars that had appeared at the Coconut Grove."

They entered the nightclub through the lobby, went backstage and started roaming around.

"We got hung up there somewhere," Mrs. Davis said in testimony that captivated the courtroom. "It was very dimly lighted." Finally, they stumbled into a corridor with shelves full of glasses and a big bowl of ice, but no water.

"We took a glass and put some ice in it," she said with a smile, adding that they also snagged it as a souvenir of the evening.

"Then we wandered around there looking for water. Anyway, my husband opened a door. We were surprised to see this man. I tell you the truth, we were so frightened. We thought that he was a waiter. We knew we were off base. He was seated right inside the door. That was what frightened us so."

The family gulped, held up the ice-filled glass and asked: "Where's the water?" she testified.

Sirhan, she said, "shrugged his shoulders and shook his head . . . It seemed like he was sitting on a box facing the door. There was a paper bag near him."

Mrs. Davis was not clear on just what "kitchen area" they had stumbled into, although it was apparently in or near the pantry where Kennedy was killed. The Senator did not come back that way until two nights later.

The Washington Post Times Herald A1.6
 The Washington Daily News _____
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 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
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 Sunday News (New York) _____
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 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
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 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
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Date 2-23-69

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46 FEB 27 1969

59 MAR 3 - 1969

Sirhan Talked About Killing, Jury Is Told

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 21—A bearded Pasasena trash collector swore today that Sirhan Sirhan told him not to waste his primary vote on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy because he was planning to shoot "the son of a B."

Testifying in a quick burst of syllables that startled the courtroom, Alvin Clark said the young Arab made the threat just a few days after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April 4.

The lanky, outspoken witness acknowledged under cross-examination that he once said he would "do anything to see (Sirhan) convicted," but he insisted that he was still telling the truth.

His testimony produced a smile from Sirhan and a pose of jaunty indifference from his lawyers.

See SIRHAN, A6, Col. 4

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The Washington Post Times Herald A-1, A-6

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Date 2-22-69

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46 FEB 27 1969

59 MAR 3-1969

Jury Told Sirhan Aired Intent to Kill

SIRHAN, From A1

But it strikes directly at the defense team's claim that their client was driven to the killing in a psychotic rage over Kennedy's campaign support of U.S. jet-fighter sales to Israel.

The New York Senator first stumped for the jets deal on a campaign stop at the Neveh Shalom Temple in Portland, Ore., on May 26 wearing a *yarmulke* on his head, he also urged that the Johnson Administration cut off economic aid that he said was used by Arab countries "in support of aggression."

Clark indicated that he heard Sirhan—"I knew the kid by the name of Sol"—vow to kill Kennedy well before that, though he did not give a precise date.

It was a Wednesday, trash collection day on East Howard Street where Sirhan lived, Clark recalled, and "Sol" walked up to chat as he often did.

"He was upset somewhat about the death of Luther King," the Negro sanitation worker declared. "He asked me how the Negro people felt about it . . . he said, 'What do you think the Negro people are going to do about it?'"

Clark shrugged. "I said that I mean, 'Like what can we do about it? There wasn't but one person involved.'"

Then, he said, Sirhan asked him how he felt about California's upcoming presidential primaries, still weeks away.

"I told him I was going to vote for Kennedy," Clark said. "and Sirhan said, 'What are you going to vote for that son of a B for? Because I'm planning on shooting him.'"

Sirhan stirred in his seat on the other side of the anti-

Headwaiter Angelo DiPierro said he escorted Kennedy through the back way after the first speech, delivered around 8:30 p.m. It took them through the pantry where, Sirhan has admitted, he shot the Senator down in the early morning of June 5.

Long-haired William Blume, 18, said he saw Sirhan first. The two had worked as stock-boys in adjoining stores in Pasadena and Blume said he recognized the Jordanian immigrant in the crowded hotel lobby around 8:45 p.m.

The crowd was moving toward the Palm Terrace to hear Kennedy's second speech, Blume said. He said Sirhan was struggling against it, moving in the direction of the hotel's Embassy Room and the pantry where Kennedy was coming through.

The New York Senator finished his second talk at about 9:30 p.m. Miriam Davis, a volunteer Kennedy hostess, said she saw Sirhan about ten minutes later, while roaming through the Ambassador's backstage corridors and pantries with her husband and daughter.

"My daughter is 17," Mrs. Davis said, "and she was interested in finding the dressing rooms of the stars that had appeared at the Coconut Grove."

They entered the nightclub through the lobby, went backstage and started roaming around.

"We got hung up there somewhere," Mrs. Davis said in testimony that captivated the courtroom. "It was very dimly lighted." Finally, they stumbled into a corridor with shelves full of glasses and a big bowl of ice, but no water.

"We (each) took a glass and put some ice in it," she said

UPI-27

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN TOLD A TRASH COLLECTOR TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE MURDER OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY HE PLANNED TO SHOOT THE NEW YORK SENATOR AND CALLED HIS INTENDED VICTIM A "SON OF A B." THAT WAS THE TESTIMONY OF ALVIN CLARK AT THE SIRHAN MURDER TRIAL FRIDAY.

CLARK, WHO PICKED UP TRASH AT THE SIRHAN RESIDENCE IN PASADENA, TESTIFIED FRIDAY THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE JUST AFTER DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS ASSASSINATED.

AFTER KING WAS MURDERED, CLARK, A NEGRO, SAID SIRHAN ASKED HIM HOW BLACKS FELT ABOUT THE DEATH OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER. "I TOLD HIM WE FELT THERE WAS NOT JUST ONE PERSON INVOLVED IN HIS (KING'S) DEATH," THE WITNESS TESTIFIED. "HE ASKED ME HOW I FELT ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA (PRIMARY) ELECTION. I SAID I WAS GOING TO VOTE FOR KENNEDY. "HE SAID 'WHAT DO YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR THAT SON OF A B-FOR, BECAUSE I'M PLANNING ON SHOOTING HIM. I'M PLANNING ON SHOOTING HIM.'"

2/22--EG952AES

UPI-124

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--THE PROSECUTION IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS CASE AGAINST SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, ON TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, DURING THE COMING WEEK.

ASSOCIATE PROSECUTOR DAVID N. FITTS SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THE STATE WOULD REST ON WEDNESDAY. THIS WOULD PERMIT THE DEFENSE TO CALL THE FIRST OF ITS WITNESSES TO TRY TO REFUTE THE CHARGE THAT 24-YEAR-OLD SIRHAN PLANNED THE SLAYING OF THE NEW YORK SENATOR AND THIS COMMITTED FIRST DEGREE MURDER AND SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE DEATH PENALTY.

2/22--W0733PES

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TOP CLIPPING
DATED 2-21-69
FROM Wash. News
MARKED FILE AND INITIALED

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Wash. Capital News Service

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S. J. J.

UPI-117

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--A TRASH COLLECTOR TESTIFIED TODAY THAT TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE DEATH OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY SIRHAN B. SIRHAN TOLD HIM HE WAS PLANNING ON SHOOTING "THE SON OF A B."

ALVIN CLARK, A NEGRO WHO REGULARLY PICKED UP TRASH AT THE SIRHAN HOUSE ON HIS ROUTE IN PASADENA, TOLD A JURY AT THE MURDER TRIAL THAT THE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE SHORTLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4, 1968. KENNEDY DIED IN LOS ANGELES JUNE 6, 1968.

CLARK SAID THAT HE OFTEN HAD A SANDWICH AND COFFEE WITH SIRHAN AT LUNCH TIME AND THAT THEY TALKED POLITICS FREQUENTLY. HE SAID THAT IN APRIL THEY TALKED ABOUT KING'S DEATH AND SIRHAN WAS DISTURBED ABOUT IT.

"HE ASKED ME HOW THE NEGROES FELT ABOUT IT," CLARK SAID. "I TOLD HIM WE FELT THERE WAS NOT JUST ONE PERSON INVOLVED IN HIS DEATH. HE ASKED ME WHAT THE NEGROES WERE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT AND I SAID 'WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?'"

"HE ASKED ME HOW I FELT ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA (PRIMARY) ELECTION. I SAID I WAS GOING TO VOTE FOR KENNEDY."

"HE SAID 'WHAT DO YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR THAT SON OF A B FOR BECAUSE I'M PLANNING ON SHOOTING HIM?'"

"I SAID HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST MEN IN THE COUNTRY. I TOLD HIM ABOUT KENNEDY GOING DOWN TO TENNESSEE TO BRING BACK LUTHER KING'S BODY AND PAYING ALL THE EXPENSES."

"SOL (THE NAME CLARK USED FOR SIRHAN) SAID HE DID THAT JUST FOR PUBLICITY."

ON CROSS-EXAMINATION, CLARK WAS ASKED BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY EMILE ZOLA BERMAN WHETHER HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE FBI AND ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TESTIFY AT SIRHAN'S TRIAL.

CLARK SAID HE WAS, AND BERMAN ASKED:

"DIDN'T YOU TELL THE FBI THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER YOU COULD TAKE THE OATH BECAUSE YOU HATED SIRHAN SO MUCH YOU WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SEE HE WAS CONVICTED?"

"YES," SAID CARL.

DEPUTY DIST. ATTY. DAVID FITTS THEN ASKED:

"ARE YOU TELLING THE TRUTH HERE TODAY?"

"YES, I AM," CLARK SAID.

2/21--EG34SPES

62-587-A

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46 FEB 27 1969

59 MAR 3-1969

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

FILE 6-11-68

Sirhan 'Deadline' Notebooks To Figure in His Trial Today

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The black notebooks in which Sirhan Bishara Sirhan reportedly inscribed a deadline for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are about to surface in his first-degree murder trial.

Defense attorneys said they would object strenuously to their introduction on grounds they were seized illegally from the Sirhan home.

The prosecution's witness list for today included Sgt. William E. Brandt and Dante A. Lodolo of the Los Angeles police, who found the notebooks.

Referred to by Yorty

Mayor Samuel Yorty of Los Angeles made the first reference to the 9-by-12-inch books soon after Sen. Kennedy died. Sirhan, he said, wrote of "the necessity of assassinating Sen. Kennedy before June 5, 1968."

The death date was met. Kennedy was shot early that day in a pantry of the Ambassador Hotel just after winning the California Democratic presidential primary.

The date also was the anniversary of the first Arab-Israeli war. Sirhan, a 24-year-old Jordanian who lived the first half of his life in the strife-torn Middle East, was "quite pro-Arab in the Arab-Israeli matter," Yorty said.

Motion Denied

Sirhan's attorneys have pictured him as tortured by war scenes he saw as a child in Palestine and inflamed by Kennedy's advocacy of more U.S. planes for Israel. His defenders were denied a motion last Oct. 22 to suppress material taken from the Sirhan home in Pasadena without a warrant.

Judge Herbert V. Walker ruled then that one of Sirhan's

brothers "took the key, opened the door and allowed them (the police officers) in." But he said he was not ruling on the admissibility of the material at the trial.

Sirhan was described yesterday as alert and sober after shooting Kennedy, which the young Jordanian's defenders say he did while in a trance and intoxicated.

And it was disclosed that Sirhan had indeed expressed willingness to plead guilty to first-degree murder if he could be guaranteed a sentence of life imprisonment.

Mistrial Sought

The disclosure came when defense attorneys moved for a mistrial at a morning conference in the judge's chambers, on grounds that a newspaper story might prejudice jurors. The motion was denied.

One of the two policemen who arrested Sirhan after the shoot-

ing, Travis White, testified that in his opinion Sirhan was not under the influence of alcoholic liquor.

White said Sirhan was quite nervous — other witnesses have said there were shouts of "Kill him. Kill him" — but that "in three to five minutes he was calmer, he regained his composure."

After shining a light into Sirhan's eyes, to test reaction of his pupils, he said he concluded that the reaction was normal and not indicative of use of alcohol.

Tells of Plea

The morning conference concerned a story in the Los Angeles Times saying Sirhan had all but eliminated the possibility of a guilty plea because of the judge's insistence that the jury, rather than the court, determine the penalty. Sirhan was said to feel that the jury might condemn him to death even if the prosecution didn't recommend execution.

Judge Walker, as quoted in the trial transcript, said: "Well, let me say that I gave some of that information in the newspaper out myself. I told them the plea had been offered, that I had refused the plea, but that I would take a plea and that the jury could try the penalty."

The judge said he felt that because someone had leaked an earlier story to the Times, saying that Sirhan was willing to plead guilty, "I wanted them to have the whole of that."

"I assign your honor doing that as misconduct," said Grant B. Cooper, chief defense counsel. He noted the defense moved for a mistrial after the first Times story, on grounds it might influence jurors, and it was denied.

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The Washington Post Times Herald _____
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 DATED 2-21-69
 FROM Wash. News
 MARKED FILE AND INITIALED

Kensalt

UPI-181
 (SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN OFFERED TO ENTER A PLEA OF GUILTY TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER BUT THE OFFER WAS REJECTED BECAUSE HE ALSO INSISTED IT BE ACCOMPANIED BY A LIFE PRISON SENTENCE INSTEAD OF DEATH, IT WAS REVEALED THIS MORNING.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER MADE PUBLIC A TRANSCRIPT OF A CONFERENCE HELD IN SECRET THURSDAY MORNING AT WHICH IT WAS BROUGHT OUT THAT THE JUDGE INSISTED THE JURY WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON THE PENALTY.

THE CONFERENCE WAS CALLED WHEN DEFENSE ATTORNEY GRANT COOPER MADE A MOTION FOR A MISTRIAL IN THE CASE AGAINST SIRHAN, CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, BECAUSE OF A STORY IN THURSDAY MORNING'S LOS ANGELES TIMES.

JUDGE WALKER DENIED THE MISTRIAL MOTION.

IN THE TRANSCRIPT MADE AVAILABLE IT WAS REVEALED THAT JUDGE WALKER HIMSELF WAS THE SOURCE OF PART OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE TIMES' STORY CONCERNING SIRHAN'S WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE HIS PRESENT INNOCENT PLEA.

"WELL, LET ME SAY THAT I GAVE SOME OF THAT INFORMATION OUT MYSELF," WALKER SAID AS REPORTED IN THE TRANSCRIPT. "I TOLD THEM THE PLEA HAD BEEN OFFERED AND I HAD REFUSED THE PLEA BUT THAT I WOULD TAKE A PLEA ON FIRST DEGREE AND THAT THE JURY COULD TRY THE PENALTY. I FELT IT HAD LEAKED OUT, THE OTHER HALF, AND I WANTED THEM TO HAVE THE WHOLE OF THAT."

"I ASSIGN (CHARGE) YOUR HONOR DOING THAT AS MISCONDUCT," COOPER SAID.

WALKER SAID HE GAVE PART OF THE INFORMATION TO A REPORTER FOR THE LOS ANGELES TIMES.

THE TRANSCRIPT REVEALED THAT SIRHAN PERSONALLY WANTED TO ENTER THE GUILTY PLEA.

"HE DID WANT TO ENTER A PLEA TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER WITH LIFE BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO ENTER A PLEA WITH THE SUGGESTION I MADE AS THE RECORD INDICATED," THE JUDGE SAID.

COOPER ARGUED THAT THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE SESSION THIS MORNING SHOULD NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS.

DEPUTY DIST. ATTY. LYNN COMPTON SAID HE DID NOT 102-587-A **NOT RECORDED** WHY THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET OR SEALED.

48 FEB 27 1969

59 MAR 3-1969

"PLEA BARGAINING ALWAYS IS SECRET," COOPER SAID.
THE JUDGE REPLIED THAT THE SESSION TODAY WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH PLEA
BARGAINING AND RULED THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS.
HE SAID THAT WITH THE JURY LOCKED UP IN A HOTEL AND BANNED FROM
SEEING NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OR HEARING RADIO OR TELEVISION STORIES OF THE
TRIAL IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE JURORS TO LEARN OF THE CONFERENCE
TODAY.

COOPER REPLIED THAT THEY WERE VISITED BY THEIR HUSBANDS AND WIVES
AND THAT THEY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LEARN OF IT.
BOTH SIDES DENIED THEY WERE THE SOURCE OF THE ORIGINAL STORY
ABOUT THE CHANGE OF PLEA CARRIED IN THE TIMES A MONTH AGO, BUT COOPER
SAID IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT IT CAME FROM DIST. ATTY. EVELLE J.
YOUNGER.

HE OBJECTED STRENUOUSLY TO THE INFORMATION BEING PUT OUT NOW "IT
SPREADS LIKE RIPPLES GOING OUT," HE SAID. "YOUR VERY OBJECTIVE IS TO
FEED IT."

2/20--PA720PES

UPI-192

ADD 1 SIRHAN, LOS ANGELES (UPI-21)

AFTER COURT CONCLUDED FOR THE DAY, COOPER TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE WAS
USING A TECHNICAL TERM, INDICATING HE FELT THE JUDGE WAS IN ERROR, WHEN
HE CHARGED WALKER WITH "MISCONDUCT," COOPER SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE
HAD NO DESIRE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER AND WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT
THE JUDGE SHOULD NOT LONGER PRESIDE OVER THE TRIAL.

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Schultz

SIRHAN 2/21 NX

DAY LD

BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN IS WILLING TO GO TO PRISON FOR LIFE BUT HE DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE HIS CHANCES WITH A JURY OF GOING TO THE GAS CHAMBER.

THE ADMITTED KILLER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY OFFERED TO PLEAD GUILTY TO A CHARGE OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER PROVIDED HE HAD THE ASSURANCE THERE WOULD BE NO DEATH PENALTY.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER REJECTED THE "COMPROMISE" AND ORDERED THE TRIAL TO PROCEED.

THE "PLEA BARGAINING" WAS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED THURSDAY WHEN THE JUDGE MADE PUBLIC THE TRANSCRIPT OF A SECRET SESSION IN HIS CHAMBERS AT WHICH DEFENSE COUNSEL GRANT COOPER ASKED FOR A MISTRIAL BECAUSE OF NEWS STORIES OF THE OFFER TO PLEAD GUILTY.

WALKER DENIED THE MOTION. THE JUDGE ALSO REVEALED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS THE SOURCE OF SOME OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF PLEA. COOPER CHARGED WALKER 2 TH "MISCONDUCT" B

WALKER DENIED THE MOTION. THE JUDGE ALSO REVEALED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS THE SOURCE OF SOME OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF PLEA. COOPER CHARGED WALKER WITH "MISCONDUCT" BUT SAID HE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE VETERAN JURIST REMOVED FROM HEARING THE REMAINDER OF THE TRIAL.

TODAY THE JURY WAS HEARING ABOUT THE SEIZURE OF NOTEBOOKS AT THE SIRHAN HOME INCLUDING AN ENTRY: "ROBERT F. KENNEDY MUST BE ASSASSINATED BEFORE JUNE 5, 1968." KENNEDY DIED 15 MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 5.

SUCH AN ENTRY WOULD HELP ESTABLISH PREMEDITATION BY SIRHAN IN THE KILLING OF KENNEDY WHO HAD ADVOCATED ARMING THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN ITS DEFENSE AGAINST SURROUNDING ARAB STATES.

THE DEFENSE CONTENDS THE DOCUMENTS WERE OBTAINED WITHOUT A SEARCH WARRANT AND WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF SIRHAN.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WALKER MADE PUBLIC THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE CLOSED SESSION.

IT REVEALED THAT THE JUDGE HIMSELF WAS THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY. THE TRANSCRIPT QUOTED WALKER AS SAYING:

"WELL, LET ME SAY THAT I GAVE SOME OF THAT INFORMATION OUT MYSELF. I TOLD THEM THE PLEA HAD BEEN OFFERED AND I HAD REJECTED THE PLEA BUT THAT I WOULD TAKE A PLEA ON FIRST DEGREE (MURDER) AND THAT THE JURY COULD TRY THE PENALTY."

"I FELT IT HAD LEAKED OUT, THE OTHER HALF, AND I WANTED THEM TO HAVE THE WHOLE OF THAT," WALKER SAID IN THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE SESSION.

"I ASSIGN (CHARGE) YOUR HONOR DOING THAT AS MISCONDUCT," COOPER SAID.

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BUT AFTER COURT RECESSED THURSDAY, COOPER TOLD NEWSMEN HE WAS USING A TECHNICAL TERM, INDICATING HE FELT THE JUDGE WAS IN ERROR. COOPER SAID HE HAD NO DESIRE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER AND WAS NOT SUGGESTING WALKER SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PRESIDING OVER THE TRIAL. THE TRANSCRIPT ALSO REVEALED THAT SIRHAN PERSONALLY WANTED TO ENTER THE GUILTY PLEA.

"HE DID WANT TO ENTER A PLEA TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER WITH LIFE (IMPRISONMENT AS THE PENALTY), BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO ENTER A PLEA WITH THE SUGGESTION I MADE AS THE RECORD INDICATED," WALKER SAID.

BOTH DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION DENIED THEY WERE THE SOURCE OF THE ORIGINAL STORY, CARRIED IN THE TIMES A MONTH AGO, THAT A POSSIBLE "DEAL" WAS IN THE OFFING.

COOPER SAID IT WAS HIS OPINION THE LEAK CAME FROM DIST. ATTY. EVELLE J. YOUNGER. HE OBJECTED STRENUOUSLY TO THE TRANSCRIPT OF THURSDAY MORNING'S SESSION BEING RELEASED. "IT SPREADS LIKE RIPPLES GOING OUT," COOPER SAID. "YOUR VERY OBJECTIVE IS TO FEED IT."

DEPUTY DIST. ATTY. LYNN COMPTON SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY SUCH MATTERS SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET FROM THE PRESS, BUT COOPER SHOT BACK, "PLEA BARGAINING ALWAYS IS SECRET."

THE JUDGE NOTED THE SESSION THURSDAY WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH PLEA BARGAINING AND HE RULED IT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN. WITH THE JURY LOCKED UP IN A HOTEL WHERE THEIR NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION WERE CENSORED OF ALL REFERENCES TO THE TRIAL, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFERENCE IN THE CHAMBERS.

COOPER SAID THEY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY TEAR OF IT WHEN THEY WERE VISITED BY THEIR HUSBANDS OR WIVES DURING THE WEEKEND.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, COOPER CROSS-EXAMINED A POLICE OFFICER FOR AN HOUR AND SUGGESTED HE WAS LYING ABOUT GIVING SIRHAN A SOBRIETY TEST.

OFFICER TRAVIS WHITE WAS ONE OF THE POLICEMEN WHO TOOK SIRHAN TO THE STATION SHORTLY AFTER THE SHOOTING OF KENNEDY IN A PANTRY OF THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL.

UNDER DIRECT EXAMINATION WHITE TESTIFIED HE SHONE A FLASHLIGHT INTO SIRHAN'S EYES AT THE STATION AND HIS PUPILS RETRACTED QUICKLY, AS WAS NORMAL IN A PERSON WHO WAS SOBER.

THE DEFENSE CONTENTS SIRHAN WAS INTOXICATED AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION AND HIS DRINKING WAS A FACTOR IN PUTTING HIM IN SORT OF A TRANCE.

COOPER BORE DOWN ON WHITE, WHO HAS BEEN ON THE FORCE ONLY TWO YEARS, AND DREW FROM THE OFFICER A NUMBER OF CONTRADICTIONS ABOUT WHERE AND WHEN THE EYE TEST WAS GIVEN. FINALLY COOPER ANGRILY CHALLENGED THE WITNESS:

"AS A MATTER OF FACT YOU DIDN'T EVER GIVE HIM AN EYE EXAMINATION, DID YOU?"

"YES, I DID," WHITE ANSWERED.

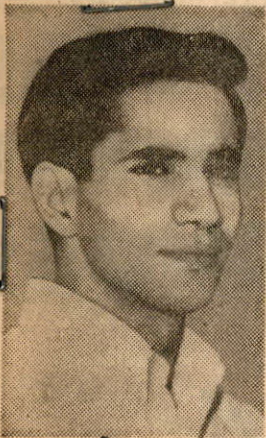
THE OFFICER MAINTAINED THAT SIRHAN SHOWED NO SIGNS OF INTOXICATION, SUCH AS ALCOHOLIC BREATH, REAVING OR LACK OF BALANCE, AND IT WAS HIS OPINION SIRHAN WAS NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR.

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If Sirhan Draws Life Term,

Prison Protection Will Pose a Problem



Associated Press

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN
 ... maximum security case?

By Dave Larsen
 Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES—In a prison, the most common tool for murder is a homemade shiv—quite often a bedspring which has been sharpened on a cell floor.

The victim is usually an anonymous convict and the crime usually receives little outside attention. Last year it happened 14 times in California prisons alone.

Suppose an internationally known convict showed up who had murdered a presidential candidate.

To be specific about it, if the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan prevails and the man

accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is sentenced to a life in incarceration, how can he possibly be kept from harm?

California prison officials were reluctant to speculate on Sirhan's future as such, but they disclosed the steps that have been taken regarding other convicts whose backgrounds or personalities indicate the advisability of providing them with protection.

"Protection cases aren't uncommon," said Philip Guthrie, information officer for the Department of Corrections. "They include informers, inmates who we think might be targets of the aggressive com-

osexuals, and former law enforcement officers."

For instance, Jack Kirschke, the former Los Angeles County deputy district attorney who was convicted of murdering his wife and her boy friend, is considered a special case.

Kirschke couldn't be thrown in with other men whose plight is due to his work as a prosecutor. For this reason, he has been assigned permanently to clerical duties at the reception center of the California Institution for Men at Chino. He lives with other educated inmates who are felt to be of stable natures.

The Chino reception center will be Sirhan's first stop,

should he receive a sentence of life imprisonment.

The typical stay is six weeks. During that time the convict is given aptitude tests, psychiatric tests (if they are indicated) and a history of his life is compiled.

With this and other information in hand—such as how much of a security risk the inmate is likely to be—the reception center staff forwards to the director of corrections a recommendation of which facility he should be assigned to.

There are 11 prisons for men in California, ranging in security from minimum to maximum.

Theoretically, Sirhan could be sent to any of the 11. Be-

cause of the nature of his crime, however, the minimum security facilities are regarded by Department of Corrections officials as unlikely.

Guthrie said no special preparations have been made anywhere for Sirhan, although he said there have been discussions about how he might be handled at the reception center.

In addition to Folsom and San Quentin, the medium-security prisons have maximum-security arrangements within them.

"For example, we have limited access units where a man's movements are closely controlled," said Guthrie.

The most stringent kind of

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protection for a prisoner would be to put him in that type of unit and, in effect, keep him under almost round-the-clock lockup, even feeding him in his cell.

Of the 28,600 persons now doing time in State prisons, not many get this kind of treatment. Those who do are mostly criminals considered too dangerous to be allowed to circulate with others.

Although no prison official would say as much, this is the type of treatment regarded as likely for Sirhan—at least in the beginning.

"It isn't uncommon for a protection case to be eventually allowed into a regular institution routine."

A transition for Sirhan might be from constant lockup to a special assignment, which would put him in contact with only a select group of inmates and under supervision of staff members only.

For example, he might be made a janitor in a prison hospital — but in an area which would keep him from contact with the general population of the institution.

Sirhan might even be sent to the facility at Tracy, where there is a special unit consisting entirely of protection cases. Those men — about 20 of them — live together and go to their jobs together, always under an escort.

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KENSANT

file

Jury Told Sirhan Was Not Drunk

By George Lardner
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20—A mustachioed patrolman said today that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan showed no signs of intoxication after shooting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, but the officer acknowledged that the Jordanian's eyes were "not completely normal."

Officer Travis White, one of two patrolmen who hustled Sirhan out of the Ambassador Hotel, made the admission under persistent cross-examination by Chief Defense Counsel Grant B. Cooper.

White said he felt Sirhan was simply frightened after being rushed past a gauntlet of outraged Kennedy supporters.

The officer's testimony under prodding by Cooper, however, was a turnabout on several points from what he had just told the prosecution.

The defense claims that Sirhan killed Kennedy in a psychotic, drunken state which made him only dimly aware of what he was doing.

Called to the witness stand by the prosecution, White said that he gave Sirhan a quick eye examination after taking him to an interrogation room at the Ramparts police station last June 5.

Checked With Light

Using a flashlight, he said, he checked Sirhan's eyes, then those of his partner, Rookie Patrolman Arthur Placencia, for comparison. White said he darkened the room for the test so that the pupils of their eyes would open wide. Under normal circumstances, they would then contract rapidly under a flashlight.

Sirhan's eyes, White told Prosecutor David N. Fitts, "contracted quickly." They grew smaller. So did Placencia's. From that, he said, he concluded that Sirhan was not intoxicated. The young immigrant, he added, showed no other signs of drunkenness.

Placencia, on the other hand, testified after a grueling cross-examination earlier in the week that Sirhan's eyes were "real wide" and didn't react to his flashlight. The rookie said he gave Sirhan his own flashlight test in the patrol car on the way to the police station. White was driving.

Calmed Down Quickly

Cooper led White into a minute-by-minute account of the arrest. The officer, who has been on the force two years, said Sirhan was "very frightened" at first, but calmed down moments after getting into the police car, as soon as it got out of the hotel driveway.

"Did you ever see him in a nervous or frightened state thereafter?" Cooper asked him.

"No sir," White replied. He said he gave Sirhan his eye

ets tin an interrogation room about eight minutes later.

Cooper unloaded, stressing that the patrolman never mentioned the eye test in any reports until an interview with a superior officer last August. From there, the Defense Attorney jumped to a Sept. 13 deposition White gave to Chief Defense investigator Michael A. McCowan.

In State of Terror

On the ride to the police station, White said of Sirhan then, "he was still almost in a state of terror." The patrolman also said then that he couldn't recall for sure just where he gave Sirhan the eye test, and, of its results, said only that the suspect's pupils were "very near normal."

"I meant to check him (again) later after he was able to calm down," White also said in the Sept. 13 deposition, "but I was never able to."

On the witness stand today, the patrolman insisted that Sirhan was "much calmer" at the hotel but he admitted that his eyes "were still in a somewhat excited state."

"You attribute that to fright?" Cooper demanded.

White said he did, insisting that he meant to test Sirhan again only "ofr a double check" of his initial conclusion that liquor was not involved.

"As a matter of fact," Cooper suddenly challenged, "you didn't give him any eye examination that morning, did you?"

"Yes, I did," White said, wisely surprised by the question.

Mistrial Motion Denied

His questioning began after a closed, 40-minute session in Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker's chambers at which he denied a motion for a mistrial, a step usually made in open court. Neither judge for lawyers for either side offered an explanation for the unusual procedure, or even mentioned the motion, as they filed into open court.

The transcript, however, was made public later. Cooper

made the motion in protest against a front page Los Angeles Times story this morning, catching up with what other newspapers reported last week. The headlines: "Possibility of Guilty Plea by Sirhan Now Appears Remote."

The story attributed this to Superior Court Judge Walker's "insistence that the jury determine any penalty" at Sirhan's murder trial.

The source of the story was not identified. During a recess, however, Defense Counsel Emile Zola Berman told re-

porters that it "was a story that the Judge gave out."

Walker was reported in the Times last week as being inclined to accept a guilty plea if it were offered. This was incorrect.

Judge Walker denied the new motion for a mistrial on the grounds that the jurors have already been sequestered in a downtown hotel where their newspapers are censored. The defense contended, unsuccessfully, that their spouses might tell them about the story when they visit the jurors on weekends.

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Wanted to Plead Guilty

Judge Spurned Sirhan Offer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 21 (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan is willing to go to prison for life but he does not want to take his chances with a jury of going to the gas chamber.

The admitted killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy offered to plead guilty to a charge of first degree murder provided he had the assurance there would be no death penalty.

Superior court judge Herbert V. Walker rejected the "compromise" and ordered the trial to proceed.

The "plea bargaining" was officially confirmed yesterday when the judge made public the transcript of a secret session in his chambers at which defense counsel Grant Cooper asked for a mistrial because of news stories of the offer to plead guilty.

Judge Walker denied the motion. The judge also revealed that he personally was the source of some of the information about the proposed change of plea. Mr. Cooper charged Judge Walker with "misconduct" but said he certainly would not attempt to have the veteran jurist removed from hearing the remainder of the trial.

Today the jury was hearing about the seizure of notebooks at the Sirhan home including an entry: "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968." Sen. Kennedy died 15 minutes after midnight on June 5.

Such an entry would help establish premeditation by Sirhan in the killing of Sen. Kennedy who had advocated arming the state of Israel in its defense against surrounding Arab states.

The defense contends the documents were obtained without a search warrant and without the permission of Sirhan.

Thursday afternoon Judge Walker made public the transcript of the closed session.

It revealed that the judge himself was the source of some of the information contained in the Los Angeles Times story. The transcript quoted Judge Walker as saying:

"Well, let me say that I gave some of that information myself. I told them the plea had been offered and I had refused the plea but that I would take a plea on first degree (murder) and that the jury could try the penalty.

"I felt it had leaked out, the other half, and I wanted them to have the whole of that," Judge Walker said in the transcript of the session.

"I assign (charge) your honor doing as as misconduct," Mr. Cooper said.

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Shaken Author Tells Court Sirhan Was Fully Composed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Author George Plimpton says he lacked the courage to look at dying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, but instead lunged against the senator's assailant, a man he describes as "composed and peaceful."

"My eyes were solely on the hand of the defendant which had the gun," Plimpton testified yesterday at the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, charged with Kennedy's murder.

"He struck me as enormously composed," Plimpton said of the young Jordanian who has been pictured as disturbed with Kennedy for supporting Israel. The senator was shot shortly after midnight last June 5 in the flush of his California presidential primary victory.

"The rest of us, given this sudden tragedy, were not composed," said Plimpton of Sirhan. "He seemed almost like the eye in the center of a hurricane, composed and peaceful."

'Sense of Release'

"He seemed purged."

One of the 16 prosecution witnesses who described the chaotic scene when Kennedy and five others were shot in the Ambassador Hotel pantry, Plimpton's account was perhaps the most dramatic.

Although he was called by the prosecution, his testimony lent



GEORGE PLIMPTON

support to the defense contention that shooting gave Sirhan "a strange sense of release."

Did he look back after he heard the shots, John E. Howard, a prosecutor, asked Plimpton.

"I didn't have the courage to look back in that direction," Plimpton said quietly. Plimpton's book "Paper Lion" is about his adventures with the Detroit Lions in which he — a tall, slightly built man — takes part in pro football scrimmages. Plimpton said he flung himself

at Sirhan, pinning him against a steam table. Others piled on at the same time — Roosevelt Grier, football player, decathlon champion Rafer Johnson and Jack Gallivan, Kennedy advance man.

Sirhan was still firing at that time.

Hard to Get Gun

On cross-examination, defense attorney Emile Zola Berman asked: "Was it an easy task to get the gun away from him?"

A. No. Because, as I say, there were so many hands . . .

Q. Didn't he show great strength?

A. I think it surprised us that we couldn't get the gun so easily.

Later, Plimpton said, "he was very strong for such a small man."

The 33rd prosecution witness was on the stand as the fourth day of the testimony ended.

David N. Fitts, one of the state's attorneys, indicated that only about 20 more prosecution witnesses will be called — thus sharply shortening the trial, which had been estimated to last three months.

The defense has said its witness list is small, consisting mostly of testimony by Sirhan, his mother and brother, and several psychiatrists.

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PLIMPTON DESCRIBES SHOOTING

Sirhan: 'Eye of the Hurricane'

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20 (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan was "like the eye in the center of a hurricane" moments after Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot in a crowded hotel pantry, said author George Plimpton.

"He struck me as enormously composed. The rest of us, given this sudden turmoil, were not composed," Mr. Plimpton testified for the prosecution yesterday at Sirhan's trial for murder.

"His reaction in a hurricane of sound and feeling seemed like the eye in the center of a hurricane. He seemed purged."

In a fortress-like courtroom, Mr. Plimpton used those words to describe his impression of Sirhan B. Sirhan after shooting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and being pinned down on a steam table in a pantry of the Ambassador Hotel.

HELPED SUBDUE SIRHAN

Mr. Plimpton was one of those who subdued Sirhan. He flew here from the east to testify at the trial and a bit of the Kennedy flavor came back for a moment as he talked in a Bostonian accent and pronounced the word "saw" as "sawr" — the same way JFK and RFK did.

New York attorney Emile Zola Berman asked Mr. Plimpton whether he saw Sen. Kennedy lying on the floor.

"I didn't have the courage to look," Mr. Plimpton said.

Today the state called a series of witnesses, mainly police officers, in the net it is drawing around the 24-year-old Arab immigrant.

One point that may come up is the defense objection to introduction as evidence of notebooks found in Sirhan's home in which he had written: "Robert Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968." Sen. Kennedy was mortally wounded at 12:11 a.m. on June 5.

The defense contends the seizure of the "diary" was illegal and without a search warrant.

GUN ADVICE

Another witness told the jury that Sirhan fired more than 300 rounds during five hours at a target range on the day before Sen. Kennedy's death and told another man his gun was sufficient to "kill a dog."

Michael Saccoman who was also practicing with his pistol, said he talked with Sirhan for 45 minutes and observed he had seven or eight boxes of bullets containing 50 shells apiece.

Mr. Saccoman said Sirhan told him he planned to go on a hunting trip.

"I told him that hunting with a pistol was against the law," Mr. Saccoman said.

"He asked me why and I told him that was because of its lack of accuracy. And he said, 'I don't know about that — it will kill a dog.'"

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A8 Thursday, Feb. 20, 1969 THE WASHINGTON POST

Author Testifies Sirhan Composed After Killing

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 19—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan seemed "purged" and strangely composed moments after shooting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel, an eyewitness for the prosecution testified today.

Author George Plimpton gripped the courtroom with the account as he told of helping wrestle the gun out of Sirhan's hands and holding him until police arrived.

"He struck me, as compared to the rest of us, as enormously composed," Plimpton said. "His reaction seemed startling. In the midst of this hurricane of sound and feeling, he seemed almost the eye... the eye in the center of a hurricane, peaceful and composed."

"He seemed purged."

The recollections poured out of Plimpton in a virtual stream of consciousness. Sirhan's lawyers were delighted.

They contend that Sirhan is a sick and "obsessed" mystic who assassinated Kennedy in a compulsive trance that left him incapable of premeditated murder.

Plimpton, a Kennedy family friend, told first of listening to the New York Senator address his wildly cheering supporters in the Embassy Room at the Ambassador, then moving ahead of him into a back-stage pantry.

The set askew by a microphone around his neck, the tall, darkhaired writer said he was about 12 to 15 feet in front of the Democratic Presidential candidate when "a series of sharp, popping sounds" broke out.

'A Melee of People'

All he could see, Plimpton said, was "a melee of people by the first serving table" where Kennedy had fallen.

Prosecutor John E. Howard interrupted. "Did you see the Senator?" He asked Plimpton.

"No," Plimpton said. "I did not have enough courage to look back in that direction. My eyes were solely on the hands of the defendant which held the gun."

Catching himself in mid-step, Plimpton jumped onto the steam table that Sirhan was by now jammed against, his gun hand on top of the table. Eventually, ex-pro football tackle "Rosey" Grier took it away from the slender young man under the pile-up.

Sirhan Strong

Getting hold of it, Plimpton said, "was difficult because there were so many hands struggling for it and Mr. Grier's finger was in the trigger guard."

Defense counsel Emile Zola Berman pointed out that Plimpton had told police just after the shooting that Sirhan "was very strong for such a small man."

The author acknowledged it. Despite the other encumbrances, "I think it surprised us that we could not move the gun easily," he said. The 5-foot-2 Sirhan weighed only 112 pounds at the time of the slaying.

After the frail-looking Arab was subdued, Plimpton stood by, helping Grier and others hold him until police arrived. Sirhan's eyes, Plimpton went on, were "enormously peaceful." All he heard the suspect say was, at one point, "You're hurting my leg."

Prosecutors kept their thoughts about Plimpton's testimony to themselves, but it seemed plain that they did

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not regard it as a plus for their side.

Plimpton was preceded at the witness stand by bearded Paul Schrade, the United Auto Workers official who was shot in the forehead by one of the bullets that was fired after Kennedy was struck.

"I heard a crackling like electricity," he said. "I saw some flashes . . . I thought we were all being electrocuted. I began shaking and falling."

The UAW leader said that was the last thing he was aware of until he regained consciousness on the pantry floor.

Sirhan Lent Gun

On the witness stand earlier, a miniskirted blond testified how the 24-year-old Sirhan had graciously lent her his gun just a few hours before the assassination.

Shapely Claudia Williams, 26, said she ran into Sirhan at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club where she had gone, she explained, to try out a little .22-caliber revolver her husband had given her for Christmas.

Sirhan struck her as a pretty good marksman, she said.

"He went and shot my gun and I shot his," she said. His shots were "very close to the center of the target."

Dressed in a neon orange dress with her hair done in a towering bouffant, Mrs. Williams, who waits on tables at a Temple City strip club, told the courtroom she struck up a chat with Sirhan after having trouble with her own revolver.

"I couldn't pull the trigger," she said. "So I asked him. There were only the two of us out there."

Husband Ronald, however, was nearby, practicing on an adjacent range with his .30-30 rifle. For the Williamses, it was simply a California family outing. He works as a milkman. She works at the Briar Patch which its manager describes as "a sophisticated nightclub. You need a jacket to come in."

Crucial Element

Mrs. Williams said Sirhan was alone on the pistol range "firing rapidly" with his .22-caliber Iver-Johnson when she began trying to fire her weapon shortly after 4 p.m.

Sirhan, she testified, spent about 30 minutes calmly teaching her how to shoot. "He told me," she added, "that the mini-mags (the bullets Sirhan had) were better than what I was using."

Sirhan's day on the gun range is a crucial element of the prosecution's contention that Kennedy's death was calculated, cold-blooded murder rather than a last-minute decision made in a trance-like stupor.

Today's testimony could cut both ways. Several witnesses said they saw Sirhan on the range firing away furiously with the expensive and deadly "mini-mags" that are ill-suited for target practice. But the young Arab immigrant also let several people, including Mrs. Williams and her husband, handle his pistol without apparent concern.

On Range at 11:30 a.m.

The first witness, David Montellano, indicated that Sirhan was already on the gun range at 11:30 a.m. last June 4 when Montellano arrived with a friend, Henry A. Carreon.

"There was a gentleman in the last stall next to (the gun club's) office," Montellano said. He was firing very fast . . . as fast as you could pull the trigger."

Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper handed him the death weapon and called for a demonstration. The "click-click-click" of the empty .22 punctuated the silence of the courtroom as Montellano pulled the trigger in split-second sequence.

Montellano had a rifle with him on the range but eventually he walked over to the pistol range where Sirhan was.

"I wanted to find out what kind of a gun he was shooting," he said. "I thought it was a .38. He said, 'No, it's a .22.' I was surprised."

At Sirhan's feet, Montellano said, were some 400 spent brass bullet casings. Six empty boxes of bullets, including two mini-mag cartons, were lying on the bench of his firing stall. He was puzzled that Sirhan was using mini-mags, or "hollow points," which spread out on impact. Unlike others, Montellano was not impressed with Sirhan's accuracy. "He stated he wasn't shooting too good that day," Montellano testified.

Montellano and Carreon left the gun range around 1:45 p.m. "Sirhan," Montellano said, "was still there."

'Could Kill a Dog'

Bespectacled Michael A. Saccoman, 22, of Monrovia, noticed him next. He noticed the mini-mags, too.

"I asked him why he was using that ammunition for target practice," Saccoman said. "That type is used for hunting. He said he didn't know much about guns and that was the type of ammunition they sold him."

Sirhan, Saccoman said, also said that he "was going to go on a hunting trip."

"I said, 'that's against the law because it's a pistol . . . because of the (lack of) accuracy.' And he said, 'I don't know about that. It could kill a dog.'"

Sirhan's paper target, the witness added, was riddled with about 100 holes clustered around the bullseye.

"Most of the shots were close together and in the black of the target," he said. "The target had also been patched up . . . I would say he was a good shot."

Saccoman thought less of Sirhan's gun. He called it "a piece of junk" in comparison with his own. "It had a small barrel and black plastic grips," he recalled, "and a very cheap finish."

Sirhan was still practicing rapid-fire shooting from "a slight crouch" when Saccoman first saw him. But then he slowed down. Saccoman said they chatted for about 45 minutes, on and off, before he left the gun range about 2:45 p.m.

The trial moved on like a whirlwind. Prosecutors Howard and David N. Fitts called 15 witnesses to the stand today. Sirhan's attorneys cross-examined only a few.

In fact, the State gave one of its own witnesses the hardest time. Larry Arnot, former salesman at the Lock, Stock 'n Barrel Shop in suburban San Gabriel, got the going over when he was called to tes-

tify about Sirhan's purchase of .22-caliber ammunition there last June 1, Saturday before the assassination.

Told to recall it, Arnot said that around 3:30 p.m. that day, "three individuals" walked into the store. One of them, he said, asked for two boxes of mini-mag bullets.

Prosecutor Fitts cut Arnot off and proceeded to berate his own witness, bracing the clerk about a "so-called polygraph" test police gave him months ago. The test, Fitts told Arnot sharply, "indicated you were confused," that he must have had the Sirhan sale mixed up with another transaction.

There is no question that Arnot sold the bullets to Sirhan. The receipt was found in Sirhan's car.

A few days after the assassination, Arnot told the Washington Post last June, it dawned on him that "by golly, I waited on that guy." He also recalled then, he said that there were two men who

came in the store with him. Gun shop proprietors Ben and Dona Herrick told The Post the same story.

Arnot had not yet been questioned by police then, but they subsequently interrogated him. The prosecution was evidently surprised when he mentioned "three individuals" on the witness stand again today.

"Why did you say you sold it (the ammunition) to three persons?" defense counsel Cooper joined in demanding when Fitts was done. Both the prosecution and the defense are agreed that Sirhan acted alone.

"I just said three persons entered the store," Arnot said doggedly. "I didn't say I made the sale to three persons."

Cooper persisted. "You don't remember to whom you sold the ammunition, do you?" he asked. "You can't remember Sirhan or the sale, can you?"

"I can remember the sale," Arnot responded. "I can't remember the individual."



Associated Press

Claudia Williams and husband Ronald leave courtroom after Mrs. Williams tes-

tified that Sirhan showed her how to shoot her revolver at a firing range.

Angry Sirhan Demands Death

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan demanded his own execution in open court today, defiantly declaring that he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in cold blood.

"I killed Robert Kennedy willfully and premeditatedly with 20 years of malice aforethought," Sirhan insisted in a tense encounter with Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Walker angrily refused to accept the guilty plea, but found it impossible to quiet the seething Arab immigrant without an abrupt recess in his murder trial here.

"You are not going to shove it down my throat," the 24-year-old Sirhan warned the judge in protest against the course his defense lawyers have taken. "I will ask to be executed."

Sirhan said he wanted to dismiss his three lawyers, and they promptly offered to get out of the case, but the judge ordered them to stay.

He said the trial would go on with Sirhan bound and gagged if necessary. The 69-year-old jurist said Sirhan was plainly "incapable of representing himself."

Walker tried to proceed after a breathing spell, but Sirhan's sad-faced mother, Mary, was the next witness.

Fighting back a rush of tears, she tried bravely to testify, but broke down after a few questions.

"It's hard, it's hard, it's hard," she kept murmuring apologetically. The trial was adjourned until Monday. Mrs. Sirhan left the stand, dabbing at her eyes with a piece of yellow tissue.

The startling confrontation between the judge and Sirhan had left the jurors out of the room. Sirhan had

been squirming in his seat over defense testimony about what he evidently considered a dismal and embarrassing record in high school aptitude and achievement tests.

They showed a decidedly subnormal mentality at worst, a slightly below-average IQ of 89 at best.

Outraged, Sirhan whispered excitedly to defense counsel Russell Parsons. The lawyer hurried to the bench and told the judge that Sirhan had something to say.

Walker grimaced and sent the jurors to a waiting room upstairs. Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper rose to explain that Sirhan was bucking at the defense strategy. The slender defendant got up.

The judge: "There is something you wanted to say?"

Sirhan: "May I address the court in chambers, sir?"

The judge: "No."

Sirhan: "At this time, sir, withdraw my original plea of not guilty and submit the plea of guilty as charged on all counts. I also request that my counsel disassociate themselves from this case completely."

Then he sat down. Walker ordered him back on his feet, asking him what kind of penalty he had in mind.

'No Defense'

Sirhan: "I will offer no defense whatsoever."

The judge: "The question is, what do you want to do about the penalty?"

Sirhan: "I will ask to be executed, Sir."

Almost out of patience by now, Walker said there was nothing in the law that would permit that. Sirhan insisted it was his business, his prerogative.

The judge: "No, it isn't. Now, when we come to accepting a plea, you have to give me a reason."

Sirhan: "I killed Robert Kennedy willfully and premeditatedly—with 20 years of malice aforethought, that is why."

Walker said evidence of that would first have to be produced in court. Haughtily, but in the soft, measured tones that he maintained

throughout the encounter, Sirhan replied that he was withdrawing the evidence.

The judge: "There is no such procedure."

Sirhan: "To hell with it."

That was enough for the bushy-browed jurist. He refused to accept the plea, ordered the trial to proceed and warned Sirhan that any further interruptions would result in his being restrained.

The most recent case here where that was done was at the first trial of James Merikouris, 53, who was convicted in 1956 of murdering his ex-wife and her second husband. He was first gagged with leather, but he fought that until his mouth bled, and eventually wound up in a shatterproof glass isolation booth. He also wound up with a death sentence, although this was later commuted to life.

Sirhan Barely Pauses

Walker warned the same might be in store for Sirhan, but the defendant barely paused.

"You are not going to shove it down my throat, sir, in any way you want," he declared. He said he intended to represent himself.

The judge: "What are the defenses, let me ask, what are the elements of the crime of murder?"

Sirhan: "Sir, I don't know. I don't understand all of this legality. You let me."

The judge: "I am conducting these proceedings, not you. What are the defenses to murder in the first degree?"

Sirhan: "I don't know."

Once more, Walker told the defiant defendant to sit down, but Sirhan was still adamant, reiterating that he was pleading guilty and asking to be sent to the gas chamber.

The judge: "I thought I made it clear. The court will not accept the plea."

Sirhan: "I am sorry. I will not accept it."

The judge: "The law tells me what I can do and cannot do. Now, you understand from here on out, you keep quiet, and if not, I will see

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to it that you are kept quiet.

Sirhan: "I am sorry, but my original position stands."

Recess Ordered

This time, Walker simply ignored him and ordered a 15-minute recess. Sirhan took the occasion, as Cooper later put it, to tell his lawyers that he wanted no part of them.

The dispute has been simmering for more than a week. Full of pride, Sirhan has been openly unhappy with his lawyers' attempts to prove him a born loser, a psychotic so sick and obsessed that he was incapable of premeditated, first-degree murder.

Then, when the attorneys showed him their list of proposed witnesses, the mercurial Arab balked at about a dozen, including the Pasadena school official, John T. Harris, who was on the stand this afternoon when Sirhan blew up.

Cooper said he thought they had their client finally sold on their strategy, but this afternoon, the lawyer said, Sirhan reneged again and absolutely "forbade us" to call the disputed dozen.

The veteran, 65-year-old criminal lawyer said he was not about "to let a client run a lawsuit." Speaking for himself, Parsons and defense attorney Emile Zola Berman, Cooper offered to quit—though he emphasized that "none of us wants to desert" Sirhan.

The judge said he wouldn't permit it anyway. "He's incapable of representing himself," he told Cooper in denying his motion to withdraw. "I think you've prepared a good defense, if not the only logical defense that could be presented."

Jurors Called Back

The jurors were called back to hear Harris finish his testimony. Sirhan sat in his chair, sullen but quiet. Finally, his mother was called.

Eyes brimming, Mrs. Sirhan took the stand in a gold-and-black brocade suit. Gently, Parsons asked her if she were Sirhan's mother. She could barely blurt out a yes, but steeled herself long enough to say that and add that the boy was born in Jerusalem.

How long had she lived there?

"Thousands of years," she replied. "From generation to generation." She looked at an aerial map of the city as it was in 1948 at the outset of the Arab-Israeli war. "Yes," she said she recognized it.

"It was the city of peace," she said brokenly. But she could go no further. The judge adjourned trial until Monday.

"I can't conceive of a worse set of circumstances for a mother to be called to the stand," Walker announced after the jurors had left. "I think she showed great courage, but it wasn't the time."

Prosecution Not Surprised

For its part, the prosecution said that it was not particularly surprised by Sirhan's outburst, nor did it consider the blow-up any indication that the first-degree murder charge against him was inappropriate.

Cooper said it also leaves the defense in a quandary over whether to call Sirhan to the stand—as had been planned.

"I don't know what he'll say," he told reporters.

The fireworks came just as the defense was launching its case.

At this morning's session, the first substantive witness, a childhood playmate of Sirhan's, was called to attest to the squalor and violence that his lawyers say hounded the young Arab to the Ambassador Hotel last June 5.

Slender, swarthy, but taller than Sirhan, Ziad Hashimeh, 25, told of Sirhan's beatings at the hands of his father, starving children across the street and the shocks of sporadic warfare in the old, walled city of Jerusalem.

"He's a very sensitive human being," Hashimeh recalled. "Anything that hurts him, you know, he gets mad."

JUDGE REFUSES PLEA

Sirhan Begs for Execution

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan stood up in the court, a tiny figure, and told the judge he planned and carried out the murder of Robert F. Kennedy and wanted to die for it.

Superior Court Judge Hebert V. Walker replied that Sirhan was in no condition to determine what he wanted to do and refused the defendant's demand that his three lawyers be fired.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the mother, sobbed so uncontrollably on the witness stand that the trial was recessed until Monday.

The eight-week trial reached a dramatic peak yesterday when chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper said his client wanted to make a statement outside the presence of the jury.

Withdraws Plea

This dialogue ensued, according to the official transcript:

Sirhan — "I at this time, sir, withdraw my original plea of not guilty and submit the plea of guilty as charged on all counts."

"I also request that my counsel disassociate themselves from this case completely."

Walker — "Do I understand — stand up — do I understand that you want to plead guilty to murder in the first degree?"

Sirhan — "Yes, sir, I do."

Walker — "All right, and what do you want to do about the penalty?"

"I will offer no defense whatsoever."

"The question is, what do you want to do about the penalty?"

Asks to Be Executed

"I will ask to be executed, sir."

"Now I know nothing in the law that permits a defendant under any circumstances to enter a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree and ask for execution."

"Well, I have, sir."

"Well, now, just a minute. Why do you want to do this?"

"I believe, sir, that is my business, isn't it?"

"... You have to give a reason."

"I killed Robert Kennedy willfully, premeditatively, with 20 years' malice aforethought, that is why."

"Well, the evidence has to be produced here in court."

"I withdraw all evidence, sir."
"There is no such procedure."
"To hell with it."

Plea Refused

"Well, the court will not accept the plea. Proceed with the trial. Let me give you to understand here and now that this court will not put up with any more of your interruptions. . . ."

"Sir?"

"I mean by that, that you will have a face mask put on you which will prohibit you from talking and, further, your arms will be strapped to your chair and the trial will proceed. You understand that?"

"I understand. However, sir, I intend to defend myself proper (by myself). I don't want to be represented by these counsel."

Counsel Kept On

"You have retained counsel. Counsel is staying in the trial."

"What I have said, I don't want anyone to have a trial shoved down my throat, sir, and you are not going to shove it down my throat, sir, in any way you want."

Walker ordered the trial to proceed. The defendant's mother was the next witness. She broke down sobbing after a few minutes on the stand and the trial was recessed for the weekend.

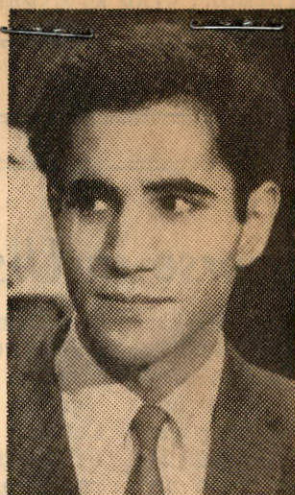
Below Normal Grades

Sirhan's outburst came when a Board of Education official was reading his grades and achievement tests in junior and senior high school showing he was below normal.

It is the defense strategy to show Sirhan has "diminished capacity."

Cooper disclosed the Jordanian ambassador to the United States was flying to Los Angeles over the weekend to talk with Sirhan.

The veteran defense lawyer said he hoped to call Sirhan to the witness stand Monday.



—UPI

SIRHAN B. SIRHAN

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The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington) **A-3**
The Sunday Star (Washington)
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SIRHAN PLEA TODAY IS DENIED BY COURT

Judge Rejects Request After Jordanian Tries to Admit Guilt on All Charges

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28—In a voice seething with anger, Sirhan B. Sirhan interrupted his trial today to demand that he be allowed to change his plea to guilty of the assassination and of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and his own to request execution.

"I want to withdraw my plea of not guilty and plead guilty to all counts as charged," he told a startled court. "I want to disassociate myself from my counsel."

After a short argument with Superior Court Judge Herbert Walker, who told the defendant he would put him in chains if he continued with his interruptions, the trial was recessed to allow the defendant to calm himself.

"I killed Robert Kennedy willfully and premeditatively and with 20 years malice aforethought," Sirhan said at one point, his voice heavy with rage.

"That has to be proved in a court of law," Judge Walker answered.

I.Q. Rating Put at 89

During the argument, Judge Walker told Sirhan in an angry voice that "I know of nothing in the law which permits a defendant to enter a plea of guilty and ask for his own execution."

"I do," Sirhan replied, in a loud, emphatic voice.

Judge Walker finally denied Sirhan's request and, during a lecture on his behavior, warned him that if he was not quiet he would "be put in chains" and be forced to wear a face mask.

The defendant's latest outburst came on the first day of the defense's case in the small, crowded courtroom on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice.

When the afternoon session began shortly after 2 o'clock, the defense called John T. Harris, a personnel supervisor in the Pasadena, Calif., school system, who told the jury about Sirhan's grades in junior and senior high school.

After testifying for about thirty minutes, Mr. Harris told the court that Sirhan had an intelligence quotient of 89 when "normal was from 90 to 110."

At this point, Sirhan, dressed in an open-necked blue shirt and dark trousers, rose to his feet. He was immediately pushed back into his seat by two security officers. He appeared to be terribly agitated.

After a short conference at the bench by the attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, the chief defense lawyer, told the court that the defendant had "objected to our calling this witness to make known his grades," adding that last week the defendant was shown a long list of witnesses expected to be called.

"He rejected about a dozen whom we as lawyers thought were in his best interests," Mr. Cooper said.

The attorney then described arguments the defense had had with Sirhan during the last few days.

"Have I recited it correctly," he then asked the defendant.

"Yes, Sir, you have," Sirhan answered.

Then, Mr. Cooper informed the judge that his client had a statement to make. At this point Sirhan made the dramatic announcement that he wanted to change his plea.

None of the exchange was heard by the jury, who had been excused after Sirhan's initial outburst.

During his argument with Judge Walker, the dark-haired, 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, kept his voice down although it trembled with anger. He insisted that he wanted to change counsel.

"What are the defenses for first degree murder," the judge asked Sirhan.

"I don't know," came the answer. Sirhan then sat down, his head almost on the defense table, his arms spread across the table. "Keep quiet or I'll see that you are kept quiet," the judge admonished him.

Following a 20-minute recess, Mr. Cooper, speaking for all the defense attorneys, offered to resign from the case. His offer was denied by the judge. It was the third time this week that Sirhan disrupted the court.

When the defendant came back into the courtroom, he appeared relaxed. His mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, seated in the spectator section, was crying.

The Pasadena school official continued his testimony without further interruption. When he finished, Mrs. Sirhan, her face streaked with tears, was sworn in as a witness.

After one or two questions, Mrs. Sirhan was asked how long her family had lived in Jerusalem.

"For thousands of years, from generation to generation to generation," she said, tears pouring from her eyes.

Sirhan's brother, Munir, then approached the defense table and asked that his mother be excused. The defense made the motion and court was recessed until Monday.

When the jury had left the courtroom, Judge Walker told the attorneys and spectators that "I can't conceive of a worse set of circumstances for a mother to be called to the stand than these."

"I think she showed great courage," he said.

During the day, the defense sought to bring out the abysmal living conditions in the Old City of Jerusalem and some of the boyhood traumas experienced by the defendant.

One of the witnesses, 25-year-old Ziyad Hashimeh, told the court that as a boy he had known the Sirhan family after they had moved from the New City, outside the massive walls, into the crowded, squalid Old City where some 350,000 Arabs were living in quarters designed to accommodate about 100,000 persons.

Mr. Hashimeh, a Palestinian Arab with sharp features and a shock of black hair, testified that the Arab families could hear gunfire a good part of the time from fighting between Arabs and Zionists.

He told of how a grocery store only a short distance from the building where the Hashimeh and the Sirhan families lived was once blown up by a bomb and how the owner was killed.

"The year before Sirhan ran into the house crying 'mother, mother, come to the well.' He was crying and shaking."

"When we got to the well just outside the front door, he showed us a human hand and arm in the water bucket."

Mr. Hashimeh described young Sirhan as a "sensitive" boy who would not hesitate to take his friends to task for lying and stealing.

"Once when we were playing hopscotch, I lied to him and Sirhan began to shake," Mr. Hashimeh said. At this

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point, the witness raised a clenched fist and shook it rapidly in imitation of how the defendant had reacted.

"He told me, 'you can learn more from people in this world when you don't lie,'" the witness continued.

Throughout Mr. Hashimeh's testimony, Sirhan alternately grinned and looked serious as his former friend described their life in Jerusalem.

The defense is seeking to prove that Sirhan, partly because of past traumas in his life, could not have given rational or mature consideration to the murder of Senator Kennedy. Under California law, the jury must find a defendant guilty of a lesser crime if the defense can prove that the accused had "diminished capacity" in that he was acting under "diminished capacity."

Sirhan has pleaded not guilty to first degree murder although his attorneys have already conceded that he shot the Senator last spring at the Ambassador Hotel.

In his testimony, Mr. Hashimah said that the Sirhan family—all eight members—lived

in one room and shared a communal kitchen with eight other families in a two-story building that, he said, was "about 800 years old."

Sirhan: 'I Will Ask to Be Executed'

LOS ANGELES, March 1 (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan stood up in the court and told the judge he planned and carried out the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and wanted to die for it.

Superior Court Judge Hebert V. Walker replied yesterday that Sirhan was in no condition to determine what he wanted to do and refused the defendant's demand his three expert lawyers be fired.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the mother, sobbed so uncontrollably on the witness stand the trial had to be recessed until Monday.

The trial reached a dramatic peak when chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper said his client wanted to make a statement outside the presence of the jury.

This dialogue ensued according to the official transcript:

Sirhan — "I at this time, sir, withdraw my original plea of not guilty and submit the plea of guilty as charged on all counts. I also request that my counsel disassociate themselves from this case completely."

Walker — "What do you want to do about the penalty?"

Sirhan — "I will offer no defense whatsoever."

Walker — "The question is, what do you want to do about the penalty?"

ASKS DEATH

"I will ask to be executed, sir."

Sirhan's outburst came when a board of education official was reading his grades and achievement tests in junior and senior high school showing he was below normal. It is the defense strategy to show Sirhan has "diminished capacity."

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The Notebooks of Sirhan^{N²⁰} Sirhan

The extracts from the private notebooks of Sirhan Sirhan, brought into the public domain Tuesday during his trial for the murder of Robert F. Kennedy, are fascinating and disturbing. They appear to establish premeditation and motive for his attack, as the prosecution claims, but they also demonstrate a mind that was disturbed and, perhaps, quite sick, when they were written. Since the principal hope of Sirhan's attorneys seems to be to convince the jury that he was mentally disturbed, if not legally insane, at the time of the crime and thus should not be sent to the gas chamber, the notebooks may help the defense as much as the prosecution.

Far more disturbing than the contents of the notebooks is the way in which they have been made public. The Supreme Court has made it very clear that the Constitution bars the government from seizing anyone's private papers and from using them against him over his objections. That rule is hardly a new one, since it was first announced by the Court in 1886, and hardly open to question since it is deeply rooted in both history and logic. One of the complaints the American colonists, as well as the citizens of England, had against the British monarchy in the 18th century was the seizures of private papers by the authorities as proof of sedition. The Fourth and Fifth Amendments were designed to block that practice, among other things. More than 80 years ago, when the Supreme Court faced this question after a judge had ordered a man to produce his private papers, it said, "Any forcible and compulsory extortion of a man's own testimony or of his private papers to be used as evidence to convict him of crime . . . is within the condemnation of (prior decisions). We have been unable to perceive that the seizure of a man's private books and papers to be used in evidence against him is substantially different from compelling him to be a witness against himself."

The question thus raised about the use of Sirhan's notebooks at this trial is substantial. It may be that his attorneys, really wanting that evidence spread on the record in support of an insanity defense, did not choose to contest seriously its use by the prosecution. But Sirhan himself made his objection well known. He did not want the notebooks used in his trial and it is after all, his constitutional right that appears to have been abridged by their use. Two problems arise from these events: Unless Sirhan is incompetent to make decisions about his own rights, do the lawyers have authority

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to override his wishes on so sensitive a question? If the jury should find him guilty as charged, does not the use of these notebooks over his personal objections provide a substantial ground for reversal on appeal?

Beyond this, however, the actions of the prosecution in releasing to the press two pages from those notebooks that the Judge barred from evidence—and the Judge's refusal to stop it from doing so—are indefensible. The Judge said the material on these pages was irrelevant to the trial and possibly "inflammatory." But the prosecution contended, successfully, that this material should be made public (although not given to the jury) "in the interests of the public and the Nation to know what the defendant thought about this country."

The first question that springs to mind about this event is whether this is a show trial or a real one? Who is passing judgment on Sirhan? A jury or a nation? Many of the Nation's judges and lawyers have protested loudly in recent years about what is called "trial by newspaper." Yet in this case, a judge has concurred in the decision of a prosecutor to engage in exactly that. If Sirhan's thoughts are too inflammatory to be allowed to go before the jury which will judge him, are they not also too inflammatory to go before the public that will judge the jury?

It is, of course, interesting to know what Sirhan thought of his adopted country. But is that anybody's business but his own unless he chooses to tell us himself? Is there any essential difference between the seizure and publication of his private writings and the seizure and publication of the private writings of any other citizen? The whole principle of individual freedom in the Western World rests on the theory expressed almost 200 years ago in those famous words delivered by William Pitt in the House of Lords: "The poorest man may in his cottage bid defiance to all the forces of the Crown. It may be frail, its roof may shake; the wind may blow through it; the storm may enter, the rain may enter—but the King of England cannot enter; all his force dares not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement."

For the government to cross that threshold, with or without a search warrant, and to take away a man's private communications is to reduce the freedom each of us has to put down on paper his most intimate thoughts. That is too high a price to pay for a better public understanding of why Sirhan Sirhan killed Robert Kennedy.

Sirhan Faces Binding, Gag For Outbursts

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 26

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker threatened today to bind and gag Sirhan Bishara Sirhan if he stirs up "any more commotion" at his assassination trial.

"He just gets worse and worse and we have to stop him someplace," the judge told Sirhan's attorneys at a session in his private chambers this morning.

The judge said he was thinking of a mask that would keep Sirhan's mouth "fairly well closed" and a pair of straps to keep him in his courtroom chair.

For the rest of the day, Sirhan was good, even delighted at one point with some prosecution testimony about how smart he was, but his lawyers served notice on Walker that they could make no promises about his behavior during the rest of the trial.

Sirhan exploded several times Tuesday in bitter protests, he said, against introduction of his secret writings, replete with staccato threats to kill Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The mercurial Arab's attorneys managed to calm him down, but, they said, only with difficulty.

The state virtually rested its case at the end of today's session after calling 57 witnesses in prosecution of the first-degree murder charge lodged against Sirhan for Kennedy's death here last June 5.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lynn D. Compton told the judge Tuesday that he suspected Sirhan might be "malingering or putting on some kind of act" in the courtroom. But Judge Walker, according to a transcript of this exchange made public today, said he was convinced Sirhan was not bluffing.

This morning, Walker called attorneys for both sides into his chambers again and told them that "if there is any more commotion by this defendant in that courtroom, I am going to put him in restraint."

Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper: "If there is any more commotion, we are going to ask to be relieved."

Judge Walker: "That's going to be another problem."

Defense counsel Emile Zola Berman: "What kind of restraint did you have in mind, judge?"

Judge Walker: "Well, we have a mask that we can put on the defendant that holds his mouth fairly well closed. We have two leather straps

with which we can strap his arms to the chair. That's the kind of restraint I had in mind."

Sirhan was waiting in an anteroom at the moment. Attorneys Cooper and Berman excused themselves, huddled with Sirhan and reported back to the judge.

Berman: "We regret to tell you we can't tell you what he will do."

Cooper: "We told him what you said."

Judge Walker: "That is what I told you to tell him because we just can't put up with his antics. He is just like a child."

Should Sirhan have to be restrained, it could go a long way toward supporting the defense contention that he is far too sick to be capable of the cold-blooded murder of which he stands accused.

The jurors, however, remained blithely unaware of the prospect as the prosecution called its three final witnesses to the stand today.

The first detective, Lt. William C. Jordan of the Los Angeles Police Department, testified that Sirhan made him serve as his food-taster in the hours after the slender immigrant's arrest for killing Kennedy.

His moodiness gone for the moment, Sirhan beamed broadly as the officer called him one of the sharpest suspects he ever tried to interrogate.

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The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
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TOP CLIPPING

DATED 2-27-69

FROM Wash. Post Times Herald

MARKED FILE AND 201 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Today's session opened uncertainly as a result of Sirhan's outbursts Tuesday when he was determined to plead guilty rather than have the jurors get hold of his disjointed writings.

Sirhan's lawyers dissuaded him from changing his plea Tuesday and they apparently had to do so again today—besides warning about face masks and leather straps.

"He was still morose . . . disturbed," defense counsel Russell Parsons told reporters after conferring with Sirhan in the "holding tank" or ante-room where he was waiting for court to convene.

Eventually, he calmed down, Parsons said, especially after a chat with his brother, Munir, 21. "He thinks a lot of his baby brother," the attorney said.

Sirhan still had his lips pulled tightly together as the jurors spent half an hour intently reading the six pages from his notebooks and other scribbles that were admitted into evidence Tuesday.

But gradually he relaxed. Before Lt. Jordan left the stand, he was leaning back in his chair, happily drinking in the words.

The police officer, then a sergeant, was in charge of the Detective Bureau at the Ramparts station near the Ambassador Hotel last June 5 when Sirhan was brought in after his arrest.

Jordan said he got nowhere in his questioning then or later. Sirhan wouldn't even give his name.

At no point, the officer told prosecutor John Howard, did Sirhan appear to be irrational or intoxicated.

Lt. Jordan was followed to the stand by Dr. Faustin Bazilauskas, the physician on duty at the Central Receiving Hospital, where Kennedy was first brought, and Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the former Los Angeles County coroner who performed the autopsy.

Kennedy, the gray-haired Dr. Bazilauskas testified, was "to all intents and purposes, lifeless" when he was wheeled in.

"Each minute was an hour that night," he recalled. Bazilauskas said he considered giving Kennedy a shot of adrenalin straight in the heart with a four-inch needle to revive him, but then thought better of it.

"Mrs. Kennedy's eye were just two feet away," he said, "and I don't think she could have taken it."

The Senator was revived somewhat by other means, but he died 25 hours later. Dr. Noguchi said the three shots that struck the Senator were fired "at very close range" and in rapid sequence.

With that, the prosecution said it was resting its case except for final testimony from a handwriting expert and introduction of several hundred statements from various witnesses "for the record."

Prosecutor David N. Fitts said many of them would help lay to rest "red herrings" and false rumors about the as-

sassination, but they will not be shown to the jurors and will not be available until after the trial.

Defense counsel Cooper promptly asked for a recess until Monday to get its presentation lined up, but Judge Walker ordered him to start Friday instead.

Rogers Backing of Plan For Sirhan Plea Denied

The State Department denied yesterday that Secretary of State William P. Rogers had approved a plan to let Sirhan. Bishara Sirhan plead guilty to the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in exchange for assurances he would not be executed.

Asked to comment on the report, which appeared in a syndicated column by Frank Mankiewicz and Tom Braden in yesterday's editions of The Washington Post, Department spokesman Carl Barch said:

"I can deny that. That is not correct. When an inquiry was put to the Secretary, he replied he did not think it was appropriate for him to discuss this matter. This matter was entirely outside his area of responsibility and it was entirely up to Younger [Los Angeles District Attorney Evelle Younger] to decide what to do."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Fight Looms Over Sirhan Diaries Use

By John Douglas

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

A major clash in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial loomed today as prosecutors sought to put before the jury three diaries written by the admitted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

A preliminary skirmish in the battle of the notebooks was abruptly halted yesterday when the young Arab became visibly

upset in the courtroom and his chief defense counsel, Grant B. Cooper, called for a recess.

Judge Herbert V. Walker, presiding over the trial, then adjourned for the day. Cooper and his associate, Russell E. Parsons, calmed Sirhan before he was returned to his cell.

The two attorneys declined to say what their client had told them, but Parsons indicated that Sirhan had misunderstood preliminary legal maneuvers and believed Judge Walker had admitted the diaries in evidence.

Actually the judge will not make that ruling until today.

Sirhan's position is that "the notebooks are his and he does not want them read by anyone," Parsons said.

The lawyer charged police who searched the Sirhan home at 696 E. Howard St., Pasadena, following the shooting had "stolen" the diaries. Police admit they acted without a search warrant.

During examination of Police Sgt. William E. Brandt Sirhan rose in his chair and talked excitedly with his lawyers and Chief Defense Investigator Michael J. Brown several times during their discussion.

Brandt, under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, told the jury of eight men and four women that the defendant's brother, Adel Sirhan, 30, gave him permission to search the family home. He said he went to the Howard Street address from Pasadena Police Headquarters where he met both Adel and Munir Sirhan, another Cuneo that Sen. Kennedy might have fared better had he received different treatment at Central Receiving Hospital where he was taken immediately following the shooting in a pantry off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Ballroom.

Dr. Cuneo disputed this. He said he thought the physicians at Central Receiving had done all they could for Kennedy before transferring him to Good Samaritan.

A major portion of yesterday's trial session was taken up with the testimony of DeWayne Wolfer, Los Angeles Police Dept. ballistics expert.

Wolfer identified, and the jury was shown, bullet fragments removed from Kennedy's brain during surgery and at the subsequent autopsy. Also shown was a bullet taken from the slain senator's neck.

Wolfer identified this slug, as well as slugs taken from the wounds of three other persons injured in the shooting melee which claimed Kennedy's life, as having been fired by Sirhan's gun.

Shown the jury over Cooper's vigorous protests were autopsy photographs showing Kennedy's headwounds, which Cooper denounced as "inflammatory" to the jury.

His efforts to block the photos were unsuccessful as were those short Dr. Cuneo's testimony, which the defense lawyer objected to as a "gory detail."

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Mr. DeLoach	_____
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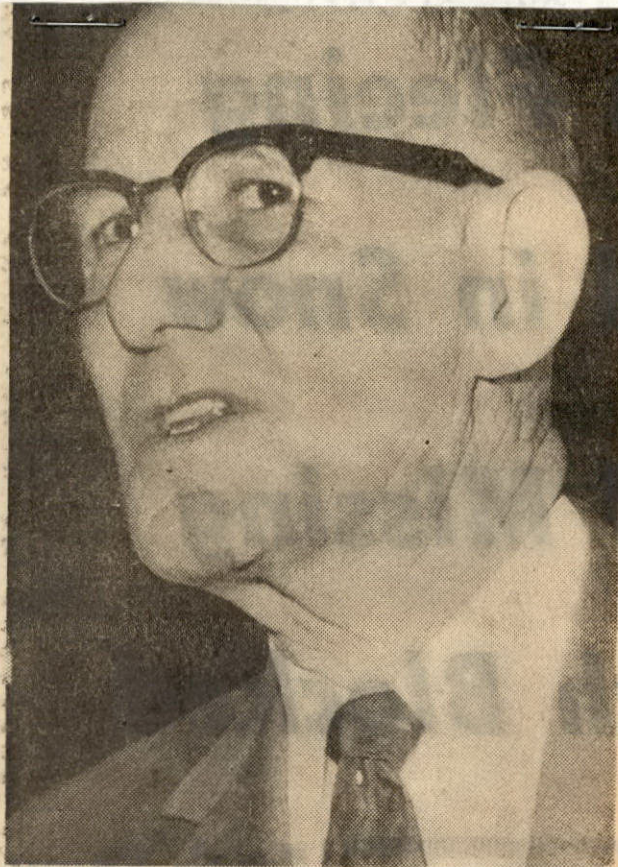
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—Herald-Examiner Photo

DR. HENRY CUNEO ENTERS COURT

—“We knew things were really bad”—



—Herald-Examiner Photo

SGT. W. E. BRANDT

He found diaries

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson_____
 Mr. DeLoach_____
 Mr. Mohr_____
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'ETHEL... AM I GOING TO DIE?'

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Doctor Recalls RFK Plea in Sirhan Trial

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

"Ethel . . . Ethel . . .

"Am I going to die?"

Robert F. Kennedy lay mortally wounded on the floor of a pantry off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Ballroom. The time was 12:20 a.m., June 4, 1968.

His wife had not been at his side when Sirhan Bishara Sirhan fired the shot that pierced the New York senator's spine and skull. But she was nearby, and almost immediately beside him.

They whispered together as Dr. Stanley Abo, on the scene, worked over Kennedy, giving him what help he could before a Central Receiving Hospital ambulance arrived.

Dr. Abo testified yesterday at Sirhan's murder trial. He was not permitted to recount the conversation between the slain senator and his pregnant wife while in the witness box. But he recalled it vividly for The Herald-Examiner outside the courtroom.

Dr. Abo was the first physician to reach Kennedy's side after the shooting. He had been at the hotel as a partisan of the senator—celebrating victory in the California Presidential Primary.

His recollection:

"Mrs. Kennedy reached her husband's side and knelt beside him.

"His eyes had opened by then and he looked sorrowfully at her and asked: 'Am I going to die?'"

"She was holding his hand and looked up at me, as if for an answer.

"I had no answer."

Kennedy kept repeating, "Ethel . . . Ethel . . . Ethel," as pandemonium broke about the couple at the shooting scene.

A few feet away Roosevelt Grier, George Plimpton, Rafer Johnson and a host of others fought to subdue Sirhan. The Kennedys did not see them.

Kennedy fell silent.

"He just moaned a few times," Dr. Abo recalled.

The ambulance attendants arrived and Kennedy objected vigorously, telling them: "Don't move me. . . Please don't move me."

Then he was on his way to Central Receiving Hospital, then Good Samaritan Hospital, and finally, 25 hours later, dead.

On the stand, Dr. Abo testified:

"I was standing near the door of the pantry," he told Dep.

Dist. Atty. John Howard. "I heard several popping noises . . . Somebody screamed . . . a small commotion started.

"I saw a television cameraman, he may have been a light man, standing on a stool mouth 'Kennedy,' and put his finger to his head. . .

"From that, I knew the senator had been shot.

"Someone rushed out to ask for a doctor and I shoved ahead until I reached the victims."

Dr. Abo said he first reached Paul Schrade, United Auto Workers Union official injured by another of Sirhan's bullets. He determined that Schrade was not seriously injured and moved to Kennedy's side.

"Sen. Kennedy's head was on a folded coat, which I presumed to be his."

Q—What did you find?

A—He was lying very still, very quiet. I did not know initially whether he was breathing, or if he had a pulse. I thought if he was not breathing, I would do artificial respiration.

"His left eye was open and staring aimlessly. His right eye was closed. I could feel a very strong, but slow pulse, could observe that he was breathing very shallow, but at a good rate. . . He looked up at me. . . He was holding a crucifix in both hands, moving both

legs, contorting his body every so often and moaning.	The first came from Pasadena garbage collector Alvin Clark.	want to vote for that son-of-a-B for, because I'm planning on shooting him."
Q—Did you notice anything about his head?	Clark swore that in April, 1968—some two months before he slew Kennedy—Sirhan told him: "I'm planning on shooting him."	Defense attorney Emile Zola Berman sought vigorously to impeach Clark's testimony in cross-examination. He demanded:
A—Yes. There was considerable blood on the jacket under his head. There was a small but penetrating injury just back of his right ear. . .	Clark said the threat came as the two talked politics in front of Sirhan's home, 696 E. Howard St., Pasadena, shortly after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	"Didn't you say (to an FBI agent in September, 1968) you wouldn't want to take the oath because you hated Sirhan so much you would do anything to see him convicted?"
Dr. Abo testified that, having no instruments, he probed the wound with his fingers.	Sirhan was upset about the King shooting, Clark said, and kept asking him what the Negroes intended to do about it. Clark is a Negro.	"Yes," Clark admitted.
Q—Was there a medical reason for this probing?	The talk turned to the California presidential primary, Clark said, and Sirhan asked him for whom he intended to vote.	But Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Pitts countered quickly:
A—At first just to locate it, then because I wanted to keep the wound open and oozing slightly to keep from having a build-up of blood in the skull.	"I told him I was going to vote for Kennedy," Clark testified.	"Have you told the truth here, sir?"
Q—What else did you do?	"Sirhan said, 'What do you	"Yes, I have," Clark said.
A—I tried to keep other doctors who began to arrive from too vigorously jumping on the senator to give him artificial respiration or heart massage. I was convinced his heart was beating, and he was breathing all right.		Clark was one of three witnesses put on the stand yesterday as the prosecution sought to show premeditation in Sirhan's admitted slaying of Kennedy.
Dr. Abo's testimony provided the second series of dramatic events at yesterday's session.		Another, Mrs. Miriam Davis, a Kennedy campaign volunteer, told of seeing Sirhan in a kitchen in the Ambassador Hotel June 2, 1968—some 47 hours before he shot Kennedy. The prosecution contends he was "casing" the place.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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Kennedy 'Looked Like a Saint' at First Sight, Sirhan Testifies

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Only two nights before he shot hate, violent at the time and fatally wounded Robert F. Kennedy, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan saw the senator in person for the first time and was "really thrilled . . . He looked like a saint, to me. I liked him," the accused assassin testified Wednesday.

The statement was startling to spectators at the murder trial. On Tuesday, they had heard Sirhan admit to murderous rage at Sen. Kennedy's pro-Israel views.

The Jordanian testified on Wednesday that his first encounter with the New York senator occurred June 2 when Kennedy was surrounded by movie stars and singing a song with singer Andy Williams at the Ambassador.

"I was really thrilled, sir," Sirhan told his defense lawyer, Grant B. Cooper. "My whole attitude toward him changed when I saw him that night. Before, I'd associated Kennedy with his statements about the Phantom jets to aid Israel and I pictured him as a villain, but that night he looked like a saint to me. I liked him."

Speaking publicly for the first time about his activities last June 4, the eve of the shooting, Sirhan said he arrived at the Ambassador after getting lost while looking for a Jewish parade on Wilshire Blvd.

He had not known that Kennedy would be at the hotel that night, Sirhan said. All thoughts about Kennedy and memories of the written determination to assassinate the senator were completely out of Sirhan's mind, the defendant testified.

Cooper's questioning revealed Sirhan's murderous impulses toward Kennedy — chronicled in the Jordanian's school notebook. These impulses emerged as fitful flashes of

they were written and forgotten when the notebook was closed.

Over and over, Sirhan insisted that he couldn't remember the actual writing, even though he confirmed that it was his, and said that after he finished writing of his plans to kill Kennedy the entries "were completely forgotten from my mind."

As questioning wore on through the second full day of testimony from the 24-year-old Arab, Cooper had elicited these emotional patterns: murderous hate for anyone expressing sympathy for Zionist aims; a perplexing warmth toward Kennedy for his views on other subjects; and an abrupt forgetting of political considerations when confronted by Kennedy in person.

The prosecution, which will begin its cross-examination today, will attempt to prove that it was not completely by accident that Sirhan, having written in May of his intent to kill Kennedy, wound up at the Ambassador with a gun the night of June 4.

But as Sirhan told it Wednesday, the entire day of June 4 had been a haphazard day of often-changed plans.

Cooper referred to Sirhan's notebook entries and asked, "Did you intend to kill him then?"

Kensalt

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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57 MAR 14 1969

'Notebook Forgotten'

"No, sir, I did not. The notebook was completely forgotten in my mind."

He did not have a gun with him that night, Sirhan added.

He also denied that that night he had been in the kitchen area where Kennedy was shot two nights later. Two prosecution witnesses testified earlier that they got lost in the hotel corridors and ran across Sirhan in the pantry area the night of June 2. Sirhan said Wednesday the witnesses were, "in my opinion, complete liars." They swore to tell the truth and they didn't.

On Tuesday, June 4, Sirhan said, he planned to spend the day betting on the horses at Hollywood Park, but after checking the paper he decided he didn't like the entries, so he went target shooting instead.

He was at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club from about noon until 5 p.m., when the range closed. He denied earlier testimony that he practiced rapid-firing; an elderly man nearby was doing that for about an hour, Sirhan said, but not he.

When the range closed, he said, he had eight bullets left in the gun and intended to expend those last shots, but the range-master's order came before he could do it. So Sirhan put the loaded gun on the back seat of his car—"so if I got a traffic ticket I don't have to explain"—and started for home. He didn't unload the gun, he said, because it was difficult to eject the bullets. They had to be pried out with a screwdriver, he said.

Later, he saw an ad in The Times which said "Join the Miracle March for Israel" and then described a Jewish parade down Wilshire Blvd., concluding with the phrase "Six Days in June."

"That brought me back to the six days in June of the previous year," Sirhan said, referring to the 1967 Israeli-Arab war. "I should have been dead for those six days... This fire started burning inside of me... These Zionists, Jews, whatever the hell they are, were trying to rub in the fact that they beat the hell out of the Arabs."

Sirhan said he was so infuriated that "I was off to go down to see what those God-damned sons of bitches were up to... I was driving like a maniac."

In his anger, Sirhan said, he thought the parade was that night. Actually, it was held the following night, June 5.

Becomes Lost

He became lost, Sirhan said, and since he hadn't been home, the loaded pistol was still on the back seat of the car. But, he said, "the gun was completely out of my mind."

Not finding the parade, he instead stopped at the lighted headquarters of former Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, where an election party was in progress. Kuchel had been defeated. "It was pretty dull," he said—smiling broadly to the spectators he added, "Forgive me, any Kuchel supporters"—and then he heard two boys say they were going to "a bigger party at the Ambassador."

He finally found the Ambassador and when he parked and locked his car, he left the gun on the back seat.

In earlier testimony Wednesday, Cooper told of Sirhan's interest in the Rosicrucians Digest, which printed an article titled "Put It In Writing."

"Plan to dare something different, something exciting," it said, and then write down the plan. "See how it gains momentum in the simple process of writing it down . . . Somehow, writing it down feeds the data into your subconscious mind a little quicker . . . Set a target date, then start working to make it come true."

On May 18, Sirhan wrote "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before June '68." And on June 5, Sirhan shot and killed him.

This mental chain of events was laid bare as Cooper read methodically, through the reading and writing that made up Sirhan's thinking.

Mystical Cult Magazine

The Rosicrucian Digest is a monthly magazine published by the Ancient Mystical Order of the Rosae Crucis, a mystical cult headquartered in San Jose. Sirhan became a member in June, 1966.

Sirhan has testified that he believed he could develop his mental powers to the point where he could produce psychic phenomena, such as visual delusions and thought transference.

Cooper also introduced into evidence the explosive two pages which he argued successfully two weeks ago were "too inflammatory" to be placed before the jury.

These pages, kept from evidence then but released to the press, contained Sirhan's wholesale endorsement of all forms of communism—even conflicting forms—and an angry attack on the United States.

Cooper read the pages aloud and later explained to newsmen that defense psychiatrists felt the writings had a strong bearing on Sirhan's state of mind—which is the key issue in whether Sirhan is sentenced to death or simply imprisoned.

Cooper droned hypnotically through page after page of meaningless, undecipherable sentences, half-sentences, and even parts of words.

"We believe that Robert F. Kennedy must be sacrificed for the cause of the poor, exploited people," read one entry.

Sirhan said, however, that he was not involved with anyone in the plan and couldn't remember why he wrote "We believe."

"The hand that is doing this writing will do the slaying of the above-mentioned victim," read another.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan: Hounded by Frustrations

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Kensalt

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57 MAR 14 1969

Following is the dramatic and revealing testimony given yesterday by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan at his trial for the murder of U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy:

Q—In your Arab schools what were your teachers?

A—They were Arabs, sir, but they had some foreign orientation.

Q—You mean they spoke English.

A—Yes sir.

Q—In 1956 you were 11 years old.

A—About that, yes.

Q—Do you remember anything about the Suez crisis?

A—Yes sir.

Q—How did you learn about it?

A—From news reports, and radio. We lived through it.

Q—What did you learn.

A—That Israel had launched another aggression against the Arab people . . . making more misery for the Arabs.

Q—What did the teacher tell you?

A—He gave us a lecture on this is the wrong way of what should be done. We should have negotiations . . . to discuss our differences and problems.

Q—A decision was made that you would come to the United States?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—I assume somebody in the family told you about it?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—What were your feelings?

A—I was hesitant. I didn't want to leave. I wanted to stay in my country with my people.

Q—What about the conditions in your country?

A—I thought, sir, they would subside eventually.

Q—You ran away?

A—Yes, sir, I did.

Q—Where did you go?

A—From Jerusalem to Ramallah, a distance of ten to 15 miles.

Q—You had relatives there?

A—Yes, sir, they all lived near us in 1948.

Q—When you ran away, did you stay all night?

A—After eight or nine hours, I became lonely, and I missed my family. I came back.

Q—Did you get a little hungry, too?

A—Yes.

Q—Then where did you go?

A—To New York.

Q—How many of the family were on the trip?

A—I, Munir, Adel, Ayda and my parents.

Q—Where were your other brothers?

A—They were in Jordan.

Q—And eventually you arrived in California?

A—Yes.

Q—Did you live with someone when you arrived?

A—Yes, we were met by our sponsor at the train. His name was Haldor Lillens.

Q—How long did you live with them?

A—I don't remember exactly. It was about two or three weeks.

Q—And did you go to school then?

A—Yes. Longfellow Elementary School.

Q—And then where did you live when you moved?

A—We secured a home of our own. We rented it. It was at 1321 N. Mentor St. That has been torn down now.

Q—And you went to school?

A—Yes, Munir and I did.

Q—Did your mother get a position of work.

A—Yes.

Q—Where was that?

A—in the nursery school at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Q—How long did your father remain with you?

A—About six or eight months.

Q—And when did you start school here?

A—in early February of 1957.

Q—And after six or seven months . . . ?

A—He returned to Jordan.

Q—And how long was he away from you?

A—Ever since.

Q — In September of 1957, you went to another school?	Q — They accepted you?	Q — What were your duties?
A — Yes, I was enrolled at John Marshall Junior High School.	A — Yes, sir.	A — Just cleaning out stalls and walking horses.
Q — Did you graduate?	Q — You were graduated?	Q — What did you weigh then?
A — No. We had moved out of the school district of John Marshall so I had to transfer to Elliott Junior High School.	A — I was.	A — About 110 pounds.
Q — Was this when your mother and sister bought the home?	Q — When did you graduate?	Q — How tall are you?
A — No, that was two or three years before we bought the home.	A — June, 1963.	A — Five feet, four and a half inches.
Q — Where did you move?	Q — How long were you enrolled at Pasadena City College?	Q — Were you permitted to ride horses?
A — To 1647 N. Lake.	A — Three semesters, sir, and I was dismissed the fourth.	A — No, not at the beginning. I was only allowed to walk them, groom them and clean them.
Q — It was necessary for you to go to another school?	Q — During this time, did Ayda become ill?	Q — Did you ever ride while you worked there?
A — Yes, sir, it was.	A — Yes, sir.	A — In the latter part of the five months, I was allowed to ride one of the easier ones.
Q — What school was that?	Q — You were dismissed from school because of absences. In those absences reported, why did you miss school?	Q — You wanted to be a jockey?
A — Elliott Junior High School.	A — I had to nurse my sister.	A — Yes.
Q — How long were you there?	Q — Were all those absences because of taking care of your sister?	Q — You terminated your employment at Santa Anita?
A — Until I graduated from Junior High School there.	A — I can't truthfully say that all of them were. But 95 per cent of them were.	A — Yes, I felt confident enough to ride more of the easier horses.
Q — You did graduate?	Q — On what other occasions were you absent?	Q — What did you do after that?
A — Yes, sir, I did.	A — At that time I liked to go to the races.	A — I secured a job at the Altfillisch Ranch in Corona.
Q — Then what school did you attend?	Q — After you were dismissed from Pasadena City College, what did you do?	Q — Was there an accident at the Altfillisch Ranch?
A — John Marshall High School (later corrected to John Muir).	A — Having developed, sir, a love for the horses, I decided to try to ride them, to become a jockey.	A — Yes.
Q — Did you live in the same place?	Q — Did you get a job?	Q — When did this happen?
A — No, we had moved to the place where my mother and sister bought the house.	A — In August of 1965, I went down to Santa Anita and asked for a job.	A — It was 7:30 or 8 o'clock on the morning of September 24, 1966.
Q — How many years were you at John Muir?	Q — What kind of job was it?	Q — Were you instructed to ride the horse fast?
A — Three years, from '60 to '63.	A — I told my prospective employer I didn't know anything about horses, but I wanted to learn. I offered to work free for him to see how well I would do. I did work free for two or three weeks.	A — I was supposed to work
Q — Your grades were reasonably good?		
A — Yes, sir, they were.		
Q — Did you get along well with other students and teachers?		
A — Yes, sir, I did.		

him for three hundred yards.

Q — What happened then?

A — 50 yards after I started, sir, I don't remember anything.

Q — You were unconscious?

A — I fell from that horse and was knocked unconscious.

Q — Can you describe your wounds? You had no broken bones?

A — No broken bones. There were many contusions on my body. Some sutures under my chin and on my left eye.

Q — Did you file a claim for workmen's compensation?

A — Yes.

Q — Did you receive an award?

A — Yes, in the amount of \$2000.

Q — When you had no job, did you read more?

A — Yes, I always read what interested me, and I thought I might continue my schooling.

Q — Did you read about the Arab-Israeli situation?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — In what periodicals did you read about it?

A — There were magazines, news, articles, books, pamphlets, whatever I saw. And I read the B'nai B'rith Messenger.

Q — That is a Jewish newspaper. Why did you read it?

A — The best way to know what the Zionists are up to is to read what they say.

Q — At this time, did you become interested in the occult or metaphysical?

A — Yes, sir, I did. I've always asked 'What is this life about? What is this world?' I wanted to know.

Q — You applied for membership in the Rosicrucians?

A — Yes, sir.

Sirhan testified he purchased a book titled "Cyclomancy" after reading an advertisement in an astrological magazine.

He said he learned to hold boiling water in his hand and not feel the pain.

Q — Were there other experiments?

A — Visual delusions.

Q — What about visual delusions?

A — Let me try to find the thing, (Sirhan takes the book, Cyclomancy). Here it is, Page 108. I copied this on a larger sheet, sir.

(Page 108 showed the series of six parallel dots contained within circles which Sirhan claimed, through practice of the occult, he could see as but one line of dots. The book was offered in evidence by the defense and studied by the jury.)

Q — What were you supposed to do with this?

A — You were supposed to look at the black dots and see only one black dot . . . I can't prove to you I saw only one, but I did . . . May I add this.

. . . I had it so I could put one half of a dot here and one half there and combine them. Not just whole dots, half dots.

Q — In your room, was there some form of desk or table?

A — Yes, there was a table with one drawer.

Q — Was there a mirror above this table?

A — Yes, there was.

Q — Did you use this mirror in your experiments?

A — Yes, I did. It was involved in the Rosicrucian exercises.

Q — Were there candles?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — And you used these candles in your exercises and studies?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — And you used these candles in studying the power of concentration?

A — Yes. One of these . . . was to take a candle in a darkened room and put it between your face and the mirror and concentrate on the flame . . . and you could see in it whatever color you wanted. This was very hard for me to do.

Q — And you could really see these colors?

A — I cannot prove it, sir, but damn it (mumble).

A — I saw a blue flame.

Q — And you could see any color you wanted?

A — Any color I wanted . . . but I had to concentrate for five minutes. Sometimes I saw flashes.

Q — How many colors did you see?

A—Numerous colors. I kept a list.

A—I played with that.

Q—Do you recall trying some of this at the race track too?

A—Yes.

Q—And there was an incident at the track which you attributed to this.

A—Yes.

Q—Where was this?

A—At the Santa Anita track last March 19th, my birthday. I wanted to bet the daily double. I didn't even look at the form, I bet the one and the nine for the 19th. After I bet the daily double, I started to read the form. There was one horse. It was the first horse in the race. It was owned by Altfillisch . . . It was a long shot, a long chance. It didn't have a chance, but I didn't want it to win.

Q—You didn't want it to win, even though you had bet on it?

A—That's right. I kept saying in my mind You . . . you won't win . . . he's not going to win, he's not going to win, he's not going to win.

They came out to the gate . . . that horse wheeled, it was in the number one position, and it went through the rail and was disqualified.

Q—It broke through the rail?

A—It jumped or something thing.

Q—And you think your power of concentration did this?

A— . . . I can't prove it, but it works.

Q—And did other thoughts occur to you, Sirhan?

A—Yes, sir. The 1967 war in June of that year, I realized the Israelis had brainwashed the American public . . . they had talked about the Arabs and the Jews turned around and did the same thing to the Arabs. It was a deception, really.

Q—You saw a magazine description (in 1967, during the Arab-Israeli war).

A—I saw a picture of Israeli soldiers on the east bank of the Suez Canal . . . they were the victors . . . they were the winners . . . If I had seen these guys personally, I would have blasted them . . . I would have killed them.

I read in a book that the Zionists and Jews in America gave \$370 million to revitalize Israel's economy. This burned the hell out of me. When President Johnson is trying to keep the money in this country . . . when tourists only get seven dollars a day, these — — — damn Zionists . . .

Q—Watch your language, please.

Q—You thought you didn't have any rights?

A—I still don't have any rights.

Q—It was important to you to have your own country?

A—I had no country . . . I'm sick and tired of being a foreigner . . . I was a place of my own. I want to eat my own food in my own land. I want my own country, my own land, my own city, my own business . . . my own everything.

(Sirhan was shown some notebooks dating from his school

days at Pasadena City College)

Q — Now, on page 15, we have what I read to you yesterday. On May 18, at 9:45 a.m., 1968, "my determination to eliminate Robert F. Kennedy is becoming more the more of an unshakeable obsession." Do you remember writing that?

A — No, sir, I don't remember writing that.

Q — Do you remember what your feeling was about Robert F. Kennedy on or about May 18—that was three weeks before June 5.

A — That could have been the time, sir, when during his campaign he said he would send 50 bombers to Israel.

Q — Where was Mr. Kennedy on the 18th?

A — I don't know, sir, if he was in Oregon or not.

Q — On or about that time did you listen to the radio?

A — No that is not the time, Mr. Cooper. That was when I watched television.

Q — What did you see?

A — That evening, I brewed myself some tea and went into the living room to watch television. I don't have a favorite program so I just turn the channels to see what program interests me. What I saw was a documentary on Robert Kennedy. It was a biography, it told of his career as a politician. I started to watch it. It told of Robert Kennedy's achievements, of his being attorney general.

It told of his close association with his brother, how he became a Senator from New

York . . . his whole history until he was running for President. It spoke of Robert Kennedy always being for the underdog . . . the poor . . . the scum of society . . . how he wanted to help the weakest. They showed that Robert Kennedy in 1948 was in Israel helping to celebrate with the Israelis their independence and the birth of the State of Israel.

The enthusiasm of the narrator bugged me to pieces. It burned me up. Until that time, I loved Robert Kennedy. I wanted him to be elected President. Then I found out he had been supporting Israel, not only recently, but since its very inception. He was doing a lot of things behind my back that I didn't know about until that night on television. It burned me up, sir.

Q — What is the significance of 5 June, 1967?

A — Any involvement with Zionism . . . invokes something in me I can't describe. Zionism is worse to me than Communism is to you. I have that same feeling about Zionism as you do about Communism. The 5 June I wrote here was in my mind as 5 June 1967, the date of the Arab-Israeli war.

Q — Does that help you recall that you wrote that?

A — If you ask me independently of this, what June 5 means, it means to me the Israeli aggression against the Arab people in 1967.

Q — This is your handwriting?

A — It is.

Q — What did you feel for

Robert F. Kennedy, when you wrote that?

A — At the time, I felt that if he were in front of me, he would have died right then and there.

Q — Do you remember your feelings at that time?

A — I must have been burned up, sir.

Q — How do you know how you felt at the time, when you don't remember writing it?

A — I was provoked. I was off.

Q — You have used some ungentlemanly language. Did you learn those words in the United States.

A — Yes, sir, I did.

Q — You heard something on the radio.

A — Yes, sir. Yes, sir, but not directly. I was in my own room, which is adjacent to my mother's. My mother had the radio on in her room and I heard it.

Q — Do you remember that station it was?

A — KFVB, the all-news. My mother loved to listen to that.

Q — What did you hear?

A — It was hot news. The announcer said Robert Kennedy was at some Jewish Club at Beverly Hills where he had committed himself so formally to sending 50 jets to Israel.

Q — What did that make you think?

A — I thought Robert Kennedy was not all the good guy he claimed to be.

Q — Did you become an-
BTV?

A — It boiled me up again. At the time, I was concentrating on my Rosicrucian studies.

Q — What did you do?

A — He bugged me to the point where instead of my own face in the mirror, I saw Robert Kennedy's face. It may have been an illusion, but I saw his face, not my own. I was that burned up about it.

Q — I again address myself to the Pasadena City College notebook . . . page 21 is written in pencil, is that correct?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — At the top of this is the word "war" . . . "A declaration of war against American humanity . . ."

A — That's right.

Q — "When in the course of human events it becomes necessary to equalize and sick, no I believe that's seek, revenge for inhumane treatment at the hands of the American people, it is proper . . ."

Q — (repeating) "Seek revenge for all the inhumane treatment committed against me by the American people . . . as soon as I am able to command a sum of money in the amount of \$2000 and acquire some firearms, the specifications of which are not arrived at yet . . . (the) victims will be the President, Vice, and so forth down the ladder . . . the method is unimportant but the weapon should be influenced somehow . . ."

"The author believes that many, in fact most people will be in sympathy with his feelings.

" . . . This declaration is not considered likely by the author . . . but he hopes to be the initiator of military steps to World War III . . ."

"The author bluntly states he wants to be recorded by history as the man who triggered the last war . . ."

"Life is ambivalence . . . struggle, wicked. If it was ever otherwise, I have never seen it. It always seems I am losing . . . always exploited . . ."

Q — This is written in your handwriting?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — What did you have in mind?

A — I don't remember.

Q — You say the victims of the party in power. . . did you have in mind on the second of June, 1967, somehow killing the President and Vice President of the United States of America?

A — That's what I wrote at that time. I must have been provoked. I would have blasted anybody.

Q — Do you recollect now obtaining a weapon for the purpose of killing the President of the United States?

A — No, sir, it's not me, sir. It's not the Sirhan who's sitting here.

Q—Without reading all this, could you tell my why you wrote "I always seem to be on the losing end?"

A—I could have been provoked by the George Putnam editorial. I must have . . . something must have moved me. There must have been some provocation. I must have been provoked. I would not have hesitated to do it (kill the President) at that time.

Q—Did you plan to do it at some time in the future?

A—I don't remember what my exact frame of mind was.

Q—On page 24 you wrote the following—"blinkers"—do you know what that means?

A—No, sir.

Q—Then you wrote "long live Nasser". . .

A—I'm a great admirer of President Nasser.

Q—Then you wrote "tell tell, tell, tell them to put . . ." Do you know what that is?

A—I don't know what I meant by blinkers.

Q—You wrote here "tell tell, tell, tell them to put blinkers on this son of a b . . . son of a . . ." Do you recall who it was you were telling this?

A—No, sir.

Q—Then there is written here "Long live long . . . 5-9-5 . . . mid-terms 10 November. Nasser . . . Nasser, long live Nasser. Alley fighter long live Communism, long live Communism . . ."

A—There is a very long jump between Nasser and Communism.

Q—On Page 29 it appears to be written: Whatever may be said in praise of poverty the fact remains it is not possible to live a complete or successful life unless one is rich. No man can rise to his greatest possibility. I have often wondered what it is like to be rich . . . rich . . . rich. Black magic. Did you write that?

A—It looks like my writing, Sir.

Q—Is it?

A—It is my handwriting.

Q—What does it mean?

A—I don't know.

Q—What is "black magic"?

A—If there is white magic, there is black magic.

Q—Here it says 'Peggy . . P . . P . . . Peggy . . Y . . O G . . G . . The incredible power of this Kizuma.' That's an ancient Egyptian technique of directing thoughts of others, of radiating thought. Was this when you were studying Eastern philosophy?

A—I don't know what source it is, but it is related to that, yes.

Q—Were you studying thinking and directing thoughts of others?

A—I don't know, Sir, what I was doing here.

Q—You were studying that at the time?

A—Yes.

Q—It says 'Peggy . . . love . . Sol and Peggy . . . the greenery here is beautiful . . Sol and Peggy . . I . . I . . I . . she Peggy . . Peggy

Ostercamp.' Was she a girl you know?

A—Yes, Sir.

Q—Did you date Peggy?

A—No, Sir, I didn't.

Q—On Page 31 it says 'Peggy Ostercamp . . . I love you . . I love . .'

A—Let me explain. "P" is alien to the Arab tongue. "G" is a loose pronunciation . . it is queer to my tongue as I say it. That was what stood out in my mind.

Q—This 'Peggy, I love you'—that's in your printing?

A—Yes, Sir.

Q—Did you have a crush on her?

A—No Sir . . . it's just that name.

Q—What about the 'I love you'?

A—I don't know. I can't account for that.

Q—Now on Page 34, you have: 'Constitution' . . . will Sirhan ever need to work or uphold . . . Sirhan must begin to work on solving the problems and difficulties of assassinating the 36th president of the glorious United States. (Lyndon B. Johnson). Kelvinator . . . Janice . . . no . . . n . . . n 696 E. Howard St. . . California . . . Sirhan, Sirhan, Sirhan, Sirhan.' This part, 'Sirhan must begin to work on

assassination of the 36th president of the United

States. Why did you write that?

A—I can't say. I must have been provoked, but I can't remember the provocation.

Q—It is your writing?

A—Yes it is my handwriting.

Q—Do you remember that about the 36th President?

A—Who is that?

Q—I don't know enough history to tell you. Johnson. Did you ever have the idea of killing Johnson?

A—No, but I hated his guts at one point. It was during the Arab-Israeli war when he came out and said: "The United States supports the territorial integrity of all nations of the area." All nations.

Q—You have written "Sol and Peggy." They knew you as Sol?

A—Yes, Sir.

Q—Were you sometimes called Sol?

A—Yes, Sir.

Q—Where did you get that nickname?

A—Someone once mistook me for being Jewish and wanted to call me Solomon. I said, why not Sol.

Q—Then it says 'Perhaps you could use the enclosed \$. . . Sol, Sol . . . \$. . . \$. . . Hello, Tom . . . Perhaps you could use the \$.' Remember writing that?

A—No, Sir, I don't remember writing it, although I did send Tom some money.

Q—How much?

A—\$25.

Q—Why?

A—I thought he needed it. It was when I had money from the industrial accident.

Q—On Page 39, you have 'Chance is a word void of sence.' Do you know what that means?

A—No, Sir, I don't.

Q—Then 'Sapphire stone, stone . . . sapphire stone . . . lodestone . . . Tom . . . Ambassador Goldberg must die, die on use die . . . meet . . . die, die, die, me at the airport . . . Ambassador Goldberg must die. Stone. Think you . . . stone . . . Goldberg must be eliminated . . . stone . . . Sirhan is an Arab

A—That he is, Sir.

Q—Then 'Arab, Arab . . . You perhaps you could use the enclosed \$. . . Sirhan, Sirhan, Sirhan, Sirhan . . . green . . . Sirhan . . . stone . . . stone . . . Sirhan . . . green . . . port . . . stone.' Then the words, 'Ambassador Goldberg must be eliminated . . . must die.' Were you angry at Ambassador Goldberg?

A—Yes, Sir, I was angry at Goldberg.

Q—Do you watch on television the meetings of the United Nations?

A—Yes, Sir, I watched all of them.

Q—Did you see the debates when he was United States ambassador?

A—Yes, I did.

Q—After the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1967?

A—Yes, Sir.

Q—What bugged you?

A—When President Johnson said "The United States supports the territorial integrity of all nations in the area," he referred to Ambassador Goldberg as his able ambassador to the United Nations. He was only "able" in the respect that he was on the side of Israel.

Q—What did Ambassador Goldberg ever do (to upset you)?

A—I just didn't like what he said. He repeated what Johnson said and he said it himself. He made a hell of a long pause when he said it. He did not stick to his word.

Q—Would you have killed Goldberg?

A—If I had a gun or if I had had anything I would have broken the television set. I hated him.

Q—Did you write this?

A—I don't remember it.

Q—How do you remember your emotions at the time if you don't remember writing it?

A—Because of how I felt about Goldberg.

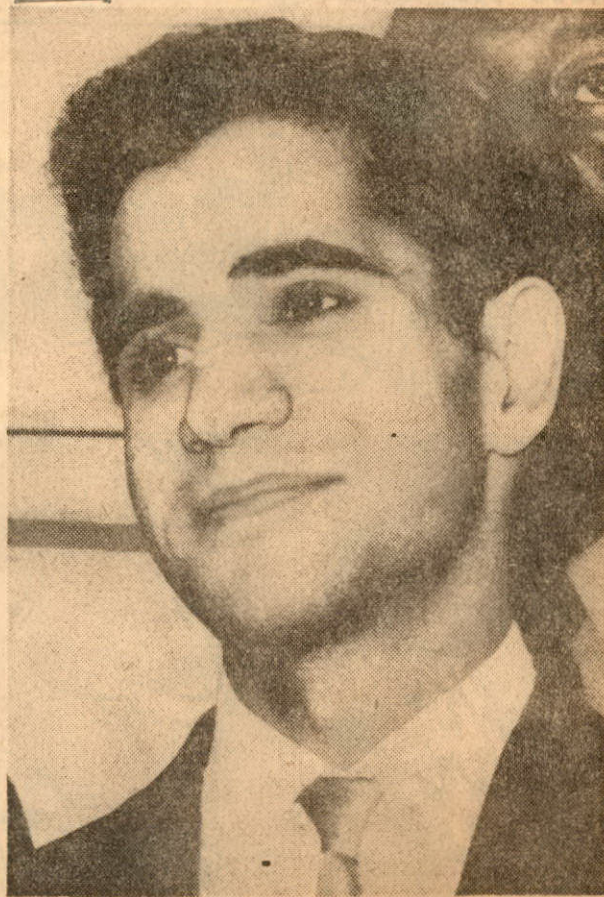
Q—This 'Darling June' written here. Who's June?

A—A race horse, Sir.

Q—And here, 'Long live . . . dream . . .'

A—I say it again, Sir: Long live the Arab dream.

COURT RECESSED



Herald-Examiner Photo

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

KENSALT

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen ☒ _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

Kensalt

3-8-69

Schulz

UPI-79

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN SAYS HE DOES NOT REMEMBER SHOOTING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, BUT A PSYCHIATRIST WILL TESTIFY THIS WEEK THAT UNDER HYPNOSIS THE ARAB IMMIGRANT CAN DESCRIBE HIS ACTIONS RIGHT UP TO PULLING THE TRIGGER.

THE TESTIMONY WILL COME AS A PARADE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHIATRISTS MONDAY BEGIN BOLSTERING THE DEFENSE CONTENTION THAT SIRHAN'S "DIMINISHED CAPACITY" PREVENTED HIM BEING COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR KENNEDY'S DEATH.

THE TRIAL WAS IN RECESS DURING THE WEEKEND.

CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL GRANT B. COOPER AND THE OTHER DEFENSE LAYERS, EMILE ZOLA BERMAN AND RUSSELL PARSONS, HOPE TO SAVE SIRHAN FROM THE GAS CHAMBER.

THE 24-YEAR-OLD DEFENDENT UNDERWENT A SERIES OF PSYCHIATRIC TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS BEFORE THE TRIAL OPENED. AS PART OF THEM HE WAS HYPNOTIZED AND DESCRIBED IN MINUTE DETAIL THE EVENTS OF THE NIGHT AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL.

SIRHAN, WHO HAS EXPLODED WITH EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS WHEN EARLIER TESTIMONY INDICATED HE WAS NOT NORMAL, COULD BE SET OFF AGAIN BY THE PSYCHIATRIC TESTIMONY.

COOPER CONTENDS THAT SIRHAN'S VOLATILE NATURE, HIS FALL FROM A RACE HORSE AND HIS DRINKING ON THE NIGHT OF KENNEDY'S PRIMARY VICTORY LED TO SHOOTING KENNEDY WITHOUT REALIZING WHAT HE WAS DOING.

THE DEFENSE DOES NOT CONTEND THAT SIRHAN WAS LEGALLY INSANE, BUT THAT HE DID NOT HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER HIMSELF.

JG419 PES3/8

FILE

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55 MAR 12 1969

Tape Played to Counter Sirhan's 'Blackout' Claim

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, March 12—Sgt. E. H. Austin of the Los Angeles Police Department chattered at the swarthy, wavy-haired suspect and tried to make small talk. He got no response.

Austin shrugged. "Makes no difference to me," he said. "I'm only a peon here."

"I like your humor, sir," Sirhan Bishara Sirhan told him. The scene was Interrogation Room B at the Ramparts police station; the time: 12:45 a.m. last June 5.

The prosecution played it all back on tape today to counter the Sirhan contention that he was still reeling under the blackout he claims came over him before shooting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel just half an hour earlier. The state contends that Sirhan knew what he was doing.

The 40-minute interview commanded hushed attention as the taped voices echoed through the courtroom. It sounded like a low-key version of "Dragnet," complete with shuffling feet, long pauses, slamming doors, coughs and yawns.

It also showed that Sirhan, whatever his mental state, was intensely interested in his constitutional right to silence. One officer dubbed him "Silent Sam."

Detective Sgt. W. C. Jordan, night watch commander at the Ramparts substation, asked most of the questions. He began the interrogation with Sirhan alone, his hands manacled behind his back, his name a mystery to the policemen who had just arrested him.

Promptly Jordan advised Sirhan of his right to say nothing and his right to an attorney, then and there if he wished.

Sirhan: "Is this of the — what the officers told me in the car?"

Jordan: "I have no idea, sir, at this point what you were told."

Sirhan: "Would you please repeat it?"

Interrupted by Officer

The detective ran through the suspect's rights again, interrupted on one final sentence by an officer who poked his head in the door for a quick question. Jordan answered it, then turned back to Sirhan.

"Start again," the defendant told him.

Jordan ran through them all again. "Do you have any questions regarding these rights?" he finished. Sirhan shook his head, then asked: "Your name again, sir?"

Jordan: "Pardon?"

Sirhan: "Your name?"

The broad-shouldered detective spelled it out, and asked Sirhan his.

Sirhan: "I want to abide by the first admonishment, sir, to the right of keeping silence."

So it went, with Sirhan refusing even to comment on Jordan's counting of his money and other items found in his pockets, including a sheet of paper with Kennedy's campaign song, "This Man Is Your Man, This Man Is My Man . . ."

Frisked by Detective

Suddenly, Sirhan winced, apparently because of a sprained ankle, as Jordan began frisking him. He sounded out of breath, almost like a frightened animal. Jordan asked him what was wrong.

"I had—I had mentioned it to Officer 3909," Sirhan told him, recalling the badge number of one of the arresting officers down to the last digit. "I don't know his name, sir."

Jordan apologized, finished the frisking, and left the room for a while. He assigned Austin and officer F. R. Willoughby to watch the young Arab. Jordan came back with a cup of the hot chocolate, asked Willoughby if it was hot.

Willoughby: "What happened to your leg?"

Sirhan: "I'm thirsty."

Willoughby: "Well, we're not going to give you any of this."

Sirhan, evidently needing at the hot chocolate, asked Willoughby if it was hot.

"Yeah, it's hot," Willoughby told him. "I guess they'll give you some in a minute."

A loud noise came across on the tape as Sirhan kicked the cup out of Willoughby's and. Then an awkward silence.

"That's enough, pal," Austin said finally.

"Yeah," said Willoughby.

"Yeah," said Austin.

Officers Clean Up

The officers mopped up the mess. At one point, with Willoughby out of the room, Sirhan asked Austin to convey his apologies "later," assuring Austin that "I trust you."

At length, Austin tried to drum up some small talk to break the monotony.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

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Kensalt

The Washington Post *A-1*
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

Date *MAR 13 1969*

62-587-A
NOT RECORDED
46 MAR 14 1969

55 MAR 18 1969

"I hate to sit here and say nothing," he told Sirhan, almost pleadingly. "You start a conversation . . . say something, anything . . . we're all people, you know. You got a girl friend? Boy friend? Friends?"

Sirhan said nothing.

"Silent Sam," Willoughby grunted after a long pause.

Austin tried again. "What happened to your leg?" he asked. "What happened to your leg? You won't even tell me that. Why?"

"You might as well be sociable," Willoughby urged. "Hell, we're just trying to get along."

Sirhan kept quiet, saying not a word more until Jordan came back in the room to take him to central police headquarters downtown. Sirhan asked for help in getting his pants fastened again. They had apparently slipped down a bit.

"Take a breath," Jordan told him.

"Jack 'em up," Sirhan replied. "Jack 'em up."

Prosecutor David Fitts said more playbacks of Sirhan's banter downtown will be put on in the morning to lay additional groundwork for questioning of defense psychologists and psychiatrists who assert that Sirhan was still suffering from partial amnesia after his arrest.

'Spotty Kind of Thing'

The first of these to be called to the witness stand, Martin M. Schorr of San Diego, declared earlier in the day that a psychotic brand of amnesia set in "prior to the shooting" and "didn't end for hours." He said there was nothing inconsistent with Sirhan's remembering some details and not others.

"It is a spotty kind of thing," he said of the alleged blackout.

Schorr also claimed that Sirhan was symbolically killing his own father in shooting Kennedy down. Sirhan "hated his father and feared him," but refrained from violence as long as he felt protected by his mother, the psychologist maintained.

"Somewhere along the line," Schorr declared, Mrs. Sirhan, too, let her son down, and Sirhan found in Kennedy "a symbolic replica of his father . . ." He did not elaborate.

This analysis, made by Schorr in a report last Dec. 18 after interviewing Sirhan in his jail cell, was brought out by the prosecution. Deputy District Attorney John E. Howard told newsmen he raised it because "it struck me as pretty far out."

It evidently struck Mary Sirhan that way, too. The defendant's mother stood frowning outside the courtroom during a recess as Robert Kaiser, a member of the defense team, read out Schorr's analysis for newsmen who had missed some of the lines.

"I don't like this. I don't like this," she murmured disapprovingly.

Tolson ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Bishop ☒
 Casper ☒
 Callahan ☒
 Conrad ☒
 Felt ☒
 Gale ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Sullivan ☒
 Tavel ☒
 Trotter ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Holmes ☒
 Gandy ☒

RFK-Autopsy Coroner Accused of Using Drugs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The coroner who supervised Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's autopsy has been accused by a county officer of taking drugs, praying for disasters and talking about autopsies on living people.

Dr. Thomas Noguchi denies erratic behavior and says his accusers are prejudiced because he is Japanese. His attorney called the allegations "distortions and misinterpretations."

Noguchi was suspended from his job March 4. In a report to county supervisors and a letter to Noguchi, Los Angeles County administrative officer L. S. Hollinger said Friday that Noguchi should be fired.

"Several physicians on your staff have expressed the opinion that the symptoms which you exhibit would indicate that you had been taking drugs in both the amphetamine and barbiturate groups," Hollinger said in the letter.

"They all further stated that such symptoms, regardless of their cause, would indicate the need for referral of the patient for psychiatric evaluation and care."

"Many members of your staff, both lay and professional, have expressed grave doubts as to your mental health."

After a helicopter crash last May, Hollinger said Noguchi "stated that it was too bad these people had to die, but you were glad it happened in your jurisdiction..."

"Shortly after a second helicopter crash, you said to your administrative assistant that you wanted a Boeing 707 to crash so that the coroner's office could increase its budget."

"On one occasion you stated that you prayed that Mayor Yorty's helicopter would crash, because the press would be there and you would be there and this would bring glory and prestige to the office."

Hollinger said Noguchi once pulled a surgical knife from a sheath in his belt, demonstrated its sharpness to a secretary by slicing bits of paper, then said he intended to use it for autopsies on living people.

At a meeting with a physician in January, the letter said, Noguchi was quoted as wanting to perform autopsies on Hollinger

and two other county officials.

"But you further stated you might have to assassinate Hollinger first," the letter said.

FILE
6-11-68

Kensalt

The Washington Post Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) A-20
 Daily News (New York) _____
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 Examiner (Washington) _____

MAR 16 1969

Date

62-587-A
 NOT RECORDED

48 MAR 20 1969

55 MAR 24 1969

55 JAN 24 1969

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

When Sirhan Saw RFK! He Was Beautiful

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-10 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 3/7/69
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title: Kensalt

Character:
or
Classification: 56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles
☐ Being Investigated

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46 MAR 24 1969

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan completed his fourth day on the witness stand with declarations that he was drunk the night he fatally wounded Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, that he could not remember the shooting. Following is his own story as told in court yesterday at his murder trial under questioning by one of his attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, and cross-examination for the prosecution by Chief Deputy District Attorney Lynn D. Comp-ton.

Q — You had money with you?

A — I had a pocket full of money.

Q — Did you go in then?

A — I don't remember.

Q — Did you have a drink with you?

A — When I invited them to come in, I had finished my drink.

Q — What happened then?

A — I don't remember. I think I went in and bought another drink.

Q — Do you remember how many drinks you had altogether?

A — No, sir, I don't.

Q — Do you know how long you meandered around the parties?

A — No, sir, I don't know.

Q — Do you remember asking when Kennedy would come?

A — I don't remember.

Q — Witnesses said you did.

A — I don't know if they are telling the truth.

Q — Did you decide to go in?

A — Yes. I felt I was quite high and I was alone, and if I got any more drunk, there was nobody with me to take care of me if I became more drunk, so I decided to go home, sir.

Q — What did you do?

A — I started to walk down the same way I had come.

Q — Earlier you had put the gun on the back seat of the car. Did you take the gun with you when you went to Kuchel's headquarters?

A — No, sir, I did not.

Q — At the Ambassador, did you have your gun?

A — No, sir. I went to the Ambassador directly from Kuchel's.

Q — When you decided to go home, what did you do?

A — I walked up this incline — that's how I remembered which direction my car was parked. I got in, but I couldn't picture myself driving my car in the condition I was in.

Q — What did you do?

A — I tried to force myself to drive.

Q — Did you turn the motor on?

A — I don't remember. I was afraid to drive, afraid I would get in an accident or get a ticket.

Q — Do you have insurance?

A — No.

Q — What did you do then?

A — I decided to go back to the party and sober up, to get some coffee.

Q — Did you pick up your gun?

A — I don't remember picking up the gun. I must have, but I don't remember.

Q — Are you sure?

A — I swore to tell the truth.

Q — But you had the gun when you went back to the Ambassador?

A — Yes, I must have.

Q — Where did you go?

A — In search of coffee.

I don't know where I found it, but eventually I found it.

Q — You went through a place with a teletype machine?

A — Yes.

Q — When was that?

A — I don't remember.

Q — What struck you about it?

A — The keys were going all by themselves. It struck me funny. I was baffled.

Q — Were there people there?

A — Yes, there were some people.

Q — Why were you there?

A — I don't know. I guess I was out there looking for coffee.

Q — Was there something you saw?

A — Yes, sir... a big pot.

Q — What color was it?

A — It was shiny. I don't remember.

Q — Were there coffee cups around it?

A — Piles and piles of cups and saucers.

Q — Was it like a kitchen?

A — I don't know.

Q — Were there bright lights there?

A — No, and no mirrors either.

Q — Were there other people?

A — I don't remember. I was so glad to find the coffee. It was the only thing on my mind.

Q — Did someone pour the coffee for you?

A — No. As I was pouring my coffee, a girl came up and wanted some. She liked hers the same way I did. I thought I was the only one who liked too much cream in my coffee.

Q — What did she look like?

A — She had some dark hair.

Q — What was her age?

A — About my age.

Q — Was she good looking?

A — Beautiful.

Q — Did you have a conversation?

A — I told her I wanted some coffee.

Q — How many cups did you have?

A — I don't remember.

Q — What is the next thing you remember?

A — The next thing I remember, sir, I was being choked.

Q — Do you remember anything in between?

A — No, sir.

Q — You were in the paper?

A — That is what I later learned in this court, sir.

Q — You saw Senator Kennedy, you put the gun to his head, about an inch away. . . eventually he died.

A — I was told this, sir.

Q — Do you believe it is true?

A — Obviously, sir.

Q — And after that you were choked?

A — I was choked, yes.

Q — Did you know anyone there?

A — I don't know anybody who was choking me.

Q — Were you hurt?

A — I don't know who it was, who was choking me, but he was doing a good job.

Q — What is the next thing you remember?

A — I remember getting into that car, a police car. One of the policemen took hold of my hair, yanked my head back and put a light in my eyes.

Q — Jesse Unruh testified that during the drive from the Ambassador Hotel to Rampart station, you said "I did it for my country." Do you remember that?

A — Jesse Unruh must have been correct in saying that, but I myself don't remember saying that to him or anybody.

Q — Do you remember the police station?

A — I didn't know what it was at the time, sir.

Q — You saw the uniforms — you must have recognized them as policemen.

A — Yes.

Q — Do you remember being taken inside?

A — Not exactly, sir.

Q — Do you remember the flashlight being shown in your face?

A — I don't remember that.

Q — Later, did other officers come in and ask you questions?

A — Mr. Jordan.

Q — You remembered Mr. Jordan?

A — Yes, he was a very nice man.

Q — Other than the pulling your head back, was there any mistreatment by the police?

A — I don't remember, but they were so friendly I don't think there could have been any.

Q — Did you know you had shot Sen. Kennedy?

A — No, sir, I did not.

Q — When was the first time you remember you were accused to killing Mr. Kennedy?

A — When this Mr. Jordan — this is the only man I remember because of his name.

Jordan—when they took me to the court room. I was in front of a lady judge. I couldn't believe it, sir. It was the first time in my life I've ever seen a lady judge. They started reading these names to me.

Q — When you were arrested, you refused to give your name?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — With the policemen, you didn't discuss anything about the shooting?

A — They never brought it up, sir.

Q — What did you think you were there for.

A — We were so engaged in this discussion . . . I don't remember. It was so interesting to me.

Q — Did a doctor talk to you?

A — Yes. Doctor Italla.

Q — What did Dr. Italla do?

A — Examined me.

Q — When you heard the name Kennedy when you were before the lady judge . . .

Q — That is the first you knew you had shot Kennedy?

A — That is right.

Q — Did you send for a lawyer?

A — When I was before Judge Klein . . . the Public Defender wanted to know my name. I didn't know what had happened . . . I wanted to settle in my mind. I wanted to find out what was going on, and I asked him to send for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Q — Why the ACLU?

A — I had heard about them on the radio.

Q — And a person from the ACLU came?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — That was A. L. Wirin?

A — Yes, sir. A fine man.

Q — And that's about the whole story?

Q — You told this jury you don't remember having any intention to kill Kennedy?

A — I don't remember.

Q — You have heard these notebooks read?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — And you wrote these notebooks?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — And you don't deny it?

A — I don't deny it.

Q — You bought the gun?

A — Yes, sir. I did, I did.

Q — Prior to 1962 . . . that is 1967, you wrote of your plan to kill the President of the United States.

A — Yes, sir.

Q — And you went to the Ambassador Hotel on the 2nd of June, 1968?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — You saw Sen. Kennedy . . . you were angry at him?

A — I was.

Q — You had . . . target practice?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — You took the gun over to the Ambassador Hotel?

A — Yes, sir . . . obviously.

Q — You didn't take any identification with you?

A — I always left my wallet in the car.

Q — And you did kill him?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — How do you account for this?

A — I don't know.

Q — You may cross-examine.

Deputy District Attorney Lynn D. Compton began the cross-examination for the Prosecution.

Q — For a long time you have been very interested in solving the Arab problem?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — Because of this, you wanted to become a diplomat?

A — Yes, sir, I did.

Q — You were quite impressed by what your teacher in the Old City told you—that the way to solve these problems was through peaceful means?

A — Yes, sir.

Q — As of the moment, now you have an intense hatred for Zionists?

A — Yes, sir, I do.

Q — That hatred would apply to anyone who appeared to be aiding the Zionists?

A — Yes, sir. I feel so strongly about it that any friend of my enemy is my enemy.

Q — When did you first develop your hatred for the United States?

A — I never have had any your statement about assassinating the 36th President?

States. I am most grateful to the United States for having lived here the second half of my life. But from 1967 on, I was very resentful to the United States for their foreign policy, for their one-sided support in the Middle East.

Q — But never until now did you hate the United States?

A — Yes. I must have been provoked at the time I wrote that, sir.

Q — You told us at one point in your life you had a great fondness for Robert Kennedy.

A — Yes, sir, I did.

Q — At what time did that begin?

A — I had always associated him, sir, with President Kennedy. To me he was the next President. I was hoping he would become President and would continue what his brother had started.

Q — But you wrote that you wanted to overthrow the United States?

A — At that time, sir, when I wrote it.

Q — But only at the time you wrote the material?

A — Yes. That is how I felt, and only at that time. I don't remember entertaining the thought after or before.

Q — However briefly, you had that feeling of hatred?

A — My feelings, sir, to anything, changed according to the conditions of the day.

Q — Think back, now . . . can you reconstruct one single thing that was done by the United States that first caused you to resent it?

A — Not to resent them or hate them. But during politics, sir, in the United States, the Presidential elections in 1948, when Harry Truman, sir, came out and said, "Do Arabs have any votes in America" . . . the president-elect implied only the Jews in America . . . can vote for him, can contribute money to his campaign, and he is only responsible for the Jews.

He felt he had only to comply to the wishes of the Zionists in the United States, if those Jews would vote for him.

Q — You were only four years old, so that was something you read later?

A — Yes.

Q — Did President Johnson do something that upset you?

A — Yes, sir, he did. I expected that.

Q — That would explain

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teacher was wrong. Throughout my life I believed in non-violence. I liked all people who try to achieve their goals peacefully.

Q — You told us if you were where Israeli soldiers were standing on the Suez, you would kill them.

A — Yes. If you were trying to kill me, I would kill you first. Whenever it comes to self-preservation, sir, I come first, not you.

Q — Then your peaceful approach only goes so far?

A — Yes.

Q — Do you doubt that you wrote "Kennedy must die."?

A — No, I don't have any doubts.

Q — Can you relate that writing in your notebook to when you saw the television program?

A — Sir, again I don't remember what the exact provocation was. I have heard of many times when Robert Kennedy was going to send those jet bombers to Israel.

Q — Sen. Kennedy was in Oregon then?

A — I thought he was.

Q — You followed the campaign closely?

A — No, sir. This stuff came to me. I didn't go to it.

Q — On May 18th, in your notebook you wrote: "My determination to eliminate Robert F. Kennedy is becoming more the more of an unshakable obsession." Does this indicate to you that you had been thinking of eliminating him for some time?

A — Sir, I don't know what exactly was my meaning when I wrote those words. My emotion was there. I don't remember what I meant by every word.

Q — Did the same thing apply to your Zionist feeling?

A — I have a built-in bug in this brain of mine about the Jews, the Israelis. Anything about them turns me on.

Q — That does not go off and on

A — No. It stays with me.

Q — You don't require anything to turn on the feeling?

Q — Try to listen to my question. Your Zionist feeling doesn't require repeated provocation?

A — No, sir.

Q — If you had no trouble remembering your experiments . . . what about your notebooks? You don't remember when these were written?

A — No, Sir, I don't.

Q — You had a habit of doodling?

A — Yes, Sir.

Q — You had a habit of writing words or even sentences of things that were on your mind?

A — I don't know, Sir, what came in my mind. I didn't sit there and doodle intentionally.

Q — These were the things that interested you? Race horses . . . girls now and then . . . songs, poems . . . sometimes you liked to write in Arabic . . . jockeys' names?

A — Yes, Sir.

Q — It doesn't surprise you to find these things in your notebooks?

A — No, Sir, it doesn't.

Q — Look at this book . . . you might have been thinking about a betting combination for a race when you wrote that?

A — That is conjecture, Sir. I don't know.

Q — Do you even remember that you had these notebooks?

A — Yes, Sir, they are mine.

Q — Do you remember the last time you might have written something?

A — No, Sir, I don't.

Q — These were not the only notebooks from Pasadena City College that you kept notes in?

A — I don't know, Sir.

Q — You had several books?

A — Were you with me at the time, Mr. Compton? How the hell do you know? Don't tell me, Sir. Ask me, but don't put words in my mouth.

Q — Did you have several books?
A — I don't know, Sir.
Q — Do you remember when you wrote this letter to ty?
you remember about withholding tax?
A — Most likely when I was at Corona.
Q — You were away from the house. You took these two notebooks with you to Corona?
A — I guess, Sir. . . I don't know. I don't remember the occasion that prompted me to write that. I said most likely I was in Corona.
Q — Did you ever look at your notebook at the things you wrote?
A — I guess, Sir. I don't remember.
Q — You don't remember looking and thinking, "Gee whiz, here I wrote that Kennedy must be assassinated" and wonder why. You don't remember that?
A — No, Sir, I don't.
Q — On this envelope, see that writing: "RFK must be disposed of like his brother." Did you write that?
A — It was my handwriting.
Q — You have no memory at all of ever writing that?
A — No, Sir, I haven't.
Q — Let's talk about the gun a minute, Sirhan. Prior to your acquiring it, you expressed a desire for a gun to your brother, right?
A — Yes, Sir.
Q — What did you want it for?
A — I don't know, Sir, at the time what I wanted it for.
Q — For target shooting or hunting?
A — It could have been from watching a western on television where they have guns.
Q — Had you ever been hunting?
A — No, Sir, I never had.
Q — You didn't go hunting after you got the gun—I mean for animals?
A — No, Sir, I did not.
Q — Before you bought this gun, had you looked at other guns?
A — Yes, at the East Pasadena Firearms Company.
Q — You were taught in the Cadet Corps about gun safety?
A — Yes, Sir.
Q — Didn't you think it was dangerous to carry a loaded weapon around in your automobile?
A — I think it is.
Q — When you acquired the gun, it looked like a pretty good gun to you?
A — I thought it was, yes.
Q — You had shopped other places for guns?
A — I had looked, not shopped.
Q — The guns in the store were too expensive for you?
A — Yes, Sir, they were.
Q — What was the going price?
A — It depends on the make.
Q — Give us some range of prices.
A — \$55 . . . \$65 . . . some cheaper.
Q — You can buy a .22 revolver for as low as \$13-\$14, can't you?
A — Yes, Sir, I guess you could, Sir, but of a very inferior make. I have seen some of them at the gun range . . . they are not in the same class as mine, Sir.
Q — Did you ever try to buy a gun at a gun store?
A — I never had enough money.
Q — You knew they wouldn't sell you one?
A — No, I didn't.
Q — You knew as an alien you couldn't have one?
A — No, I did not know that.
Q — Where did you keep your gun?
A — In my room.
Q — When did you get ammunition?
A — When I decided to shoot it, Sir.
Q — How long did you have the gun before you fired it?
A — About six weeks . . . two months.

Q — Where did you go? A — It was the first time I stayed that late.

A — To Fish Canyon, Sir.

Q — Did you buy the ammunition before you went? Q — Now, the notebook . . . could all of the writing on this page of the notebook . . . it might have been put on at different times?

A — I think I bought the ammunition at the range.

Q — How long did you stay? A — I don't know. I will not concede to that. It might have been at the same time or at different times.

A — Long enough to acquaint myself with the gun.

Q — All your shots were slow fire?

A — Yes, Sir.

Q — Did you squeeze every shot off?

A — Yes, Sir.

Q — After you finished shooting, did you unload your gun?

A — Yes, Sir.

Q — Did you put the gun in your car?

A — Yes, on the back seat of the car.

Q — You said you knew it was against the law to carry a gun . . . ?

A — A concealed gun.

Q — But you didn't know it was against the law for an alien to have a gun?

A — No, I didn't.

Q — When was the next time you fired your gun?

A — I don't remember. But there were about six times that I fired the gun.

Q — It was always deliberate slow fire?

A — I always aimed at the bull's eye.

Q — You know that rapid fire is best for a silhouette target?

A — I don't know.

Q — When you put live rounds into the cylinder of your revolver, do they fit tight?

A — Mine fit pretty tight, Sir, in my gun.

Q — Wasn't it easier to get out live bullets than the cartridges?

A — Not in my gun. If I wanted to remove it live, I had to use a screwdriver.

Q — June 4 was the only time you put the gun loaded in the car?

A — I don't remember exactly . . . I tried to use all the ammunition I had in the gun.

Q — That was the first time you got caught with a loaded gun when the whistle went off at the range?

A — I could have run out of ink, Sir, in one pen or another.

Q — The entries might have been made at different times.

A — They could have.

Q — On June 4, when you were target shooting, do you have any idea of how many rounds you fired that day?

A — 6 . . . 7 . . . 8 . . . 850 rounds.

Q — For the whole 850 rounds you testified you drew on the target and squeezed the trigger?

A — I said about 850 rounds.

Q — Well 750, give me a figure.

A — I fired a hell of a lot of shots.

Q — For all this hell of a lot of shots, you squeezed them off?

A — I tried to hit the bull's eye.

Q — You were carefully squeezing these rounds off?

A — Yes.

Q — And anybody who says you were fast firing is an absolute liar?

A — I think I would say that, Sir.

Q — Witnesses said it was you . . . are they liars?

A — Yes, Sir, they are. It was the man next to me who was doing the rapid firing. He was not firing a .22.

Q — Did you have a conversation about hunting?

A — Yes, I did.

Q — Did you say "I intend to go hunting?"

A — I don't remember saying it.

Q — Did you think you would take this gun out and hunt with it?

A — I might have. I don't know.

Q — Was anything said about killing a dog?

A — I don't remember exactly, Sir. It could have happened.

Q — It might have been said by you?

A — It could be. There was talk about hunting.

Q — About hunting for dogs?

A — About hunting in general.

Q — You did not say anything about your gun killing a dog?

A — I don't remember saying anything about my gun killing a dog. Whatever was said about a dog was in reference to hunting, not my gun or anybody else's gun.

Q — On June 1, do you remember you went to the range in Corona?

A — Yes.

Q — Do you remember signing in?

A — No, I don't exactly remember. . . . When you ask if I remember signing my name, that is like asking if I remember the whole afternoon. That is stupid.

Q — I sometimes do ask stupid questions. Do you remember signing in?

A — Yes, Sir, I do.

Q — Was all your shooting slow fire?

A — Yes . . . a policeman was there teaching some people, and the way he taught them to fire guns, that was the way I was taught, too.

Q — When you left, did you go home?

A — Yes, I did.

Q — Straight?

A — I might have stopped in Corona at a restaurant.

Q — Did you take your gun out of the car?

A — No, Sir.

Q — Was it loaded?

A — Most likely it would have been unloaded. I expend-

ed my ammunition at the range.

Q — Was there any ammunition in the car?

A — I don't remember. On the way home from Corona, I bought some ammunition at the Lock, Stock and Barrel.

I asked for something they said they did not have. That is when they tried to sell me these mini-mags.

Q — The night of the first, when you got home, you took the gun inside?

A — Yes.

Q — Was that your usual practice?

A — Yes, it was.

Q — On June 4, you were mad at Kennedy?

A — Yes, but I wasn't provoked.

Q — When you saw him June 2, he looked like an all right guy?

A — He seemed like it, Sir. I had not liked it when he said he would send bombers to Israel.

Q — On June 2, he didn't say he wouldn't send bombers to Israel?

A — He didn't say he would either.

Q — He was back in your good graces?

A — As long as I could see him.

A — As long as he was in front of you?

A — When I saw him, I thought he was beautiful.

Q — And after you saw him?

A — I still thought his sending 50 jet bombers to Israel was unfair.

Q — You thought Kennedy would still send the bombers?

A — Those Zionists have a habit of holding every presidential candidate to his word. He knew where his business lied in the American election.

Q — After you arrived at the Hotel Ambassador, how long was it before you bought a drink?

A — Fifteen or 20 minutes, a hair naut at most, probably.

Q — You didn't drink, did you?

A — No, Sir, I don't drink. I drank that night.

Q — You were mad?

A — I was, Sir.

Q — Mad at the Zionists?

A — I was, very much.

Q — And the friends of the Zionists?

A — Yes, Sir.

Q — You began to feel high?

A — Yes, Sir.

Q — What were symptoms?

A — I wasn't myself, Sir. I wasn't the same Sirhan that had come in here.

Q — Were you dizzy?

A — I was like this (made weaving motions with hands).

Q — Did you stagger?

A — I haven't been drunk enough to know what it is like, but I knew I was not sober.

Q — Had you ever been drunk before?

A — Yes.

Q — What was it like?

A — I had to be nursed by my brother.

Q — Were you sick?

A — Yes, not too sick.

Q — Did you fall down?

A — You would have to ask my brother.

Q — On this night, did you have trouble standing?

A — No, Sir, not exactly.

Q — Did you have trouble seeing?

A — I don't remember exactly.

Q — You remember the coffee urn... the girl... did you have trouble seeing them?

A — I was so glad to have gotten that coffee... it was the only thing on my mind.

Q — She was pretty, wasn't she?

A — You could have had the ugliest gal in the place, and the way I was drunk you could have said she was the most beautiful, and I would have no way of disputing it.

Q — You thought you should go home?

A — Yes.

Q — You left, walked back to your car?

A — Yes.

Q — Put the key in the ignition?

A — I don't remember.

Q — You decided you had too much to drink?

A — That I wasn't myself, Sir.

Q — You thought you might get arrested?

A — Yes. I didn't have any insurance, either.

Q — You thought you should get some coffee to sober up?

A — Yes.

Q — You got out of the car?

A — Yes.

Q — You locked it up?

A — Yes, I always locked it.

Q — You took your gun with you?

A — I don't remember.

Q — When you talked with Dr. (Seymour) Pollock, you said you took the gun out because you were afraid Jews would steal it?

A — I did not tell him that speaking like I am to you. I must have told him that when I was under hypnosis. I didn't know I told him that, Sir.

Q — You walked back to the Ambassador?

A — Yes, down the incline.

Q — It never entered your mind to go back to (Sen.) Kuchel's (headquarters) for coffee?

A — No, Sir, it never did.

Q — Do you remember getting back to the Ambassador?

A — That route, Sir, had become familiar to me.

Q — Were you on the second floor?

A — I don't know where I found the coffee, but I found the coffee.

Q — Do you know what time that was?

A — No, Sir, I do not have any concept of the time. Q — Do you remember talking to the girl by the coffee? A — Yes, I remember telling her how happy I was to get coffee. Q — What was your conversation? A — Coffee was the conversation. Q — And the next thing you remember you were being choked? A — Yes, Sir. Q — You remember an officer grabbing you by the hair? A — I didn't know it was an officer, but in this car, this guy yanked my head back and put a light in my eyes. Q — Do you remember the police station? A — No, Sir, I don't. Q — Do you remember being in this room with Officer Jordan? A — Yes, Sir, when he was giving me the coffee. Q — Do you remember kicking the cup out of the hand of the officer? A — I didn't know he was an officer. Q — Well, someone? A — Yes. Q — How many officers shined the light in your eyes? A — I don't remember. The one in the car I remember because he pulled my hair. Q — Do you remember that Officer Jordan searched you? A — I don't remember that. Q — You don't remember him going through your property with you? A — The only thing I remember about Mr. Jordan was when he was in that little room and Mr. Howard was there. Q — You don't remember that he started to inventory your property and you said, "That has already been done by Badge 3909"?	A — I don't remember now. Q — Were you woozy? A — I was tired, Sir. Q — Could you still feel the effects of liquor? A — I don't know what I was feeling. Q — Were you groggy? A — I don't know what I was. Q — You were not alert? A — I don't remember how was. Q — You asked Jordan to taste your coffee first? A — He wanted that coffee tasted. Q — You don't recall asking him to do it? A — No, I don't recall. Q — Did you not do that? A — I could have. I don't remember. Q — Why would you have him taste it first? A — I don't know. Q — You didn't think you had done anything at that time? A — No, Sir, I didn't. Q — You thought Jordan was a nice guy? A — He was. Q — Did he ask your name? A — I don't remember if he did. Q — Did anybody ask it that night? A — Mr. Howard. . . He gave me my constitutional rights or whatever they were. . . said anything I said could be used against me, I kept my mouth shut. Q — You didn't give your name? A — No. Q — You knew your name? A — Yes. Q — You weren't so foggy or drunk you forgot it? A — I don't know. Q — Don't you have any recollection of being in the police station and being questioned?
--	---

A — The people . . . this Mr.

Jordan was so friendly, Sir.

Nothing was mentioned about the case. I don't know what happened, Sir.

Q — You were never curious about why you had been handcuffed?

A — No, Sir. I wasn't myself, Sir. I didn't know what was going on.)

Q.—Still suffering from the effects of liquor?

A — I don't know from what. I was not myself as I am now.

Q.—Not yourself?

A — I must not have been
Otherwise I would remem
ber what happened.

Q — Did you have difficulty speaking?

A — I don't remember.

Q.—Any numbness around the nose or mouth?

A — I don't exactly remember.

Q — Do you remember Sgt Melendrez?

A — I remember this fellow Mr. Howard. He looked monstrous to me at the time.

Q — Do you remember late
you said to Howard "I have
been to the magistrate," and
he said you had not but you
would be taken to the magis-
trate and you might be tried
. . . you said, "Are you going
to take me up there?" . . .
remember?

A — No, Sir, I don't.

Q —You didn't ask, "Trick for what?"

A — I don't remember.

Q — Do you remember
around 3 o'clock Sgt. Mele

Edrez said. "Do you want

talk about the Ambassador?? aware that I killed Mr. Kennedy. You said, "Look, Mr. Jordan, I must act right for a moment . . . I have the right to remain silent . . . this is a basic American jurisprudence . . ." Remember?

A — No, Sir, I don't remember that.

Q — They asked if you at least wanted to give them your name?

A — I thought they had the name.

Q — John Doe?

A — John Doe.

Q — You told them that was your name?

A — They gave me this name. They forced me. They told me to sign that name.

Q — Didn't they say to sign your name?

A — They said write down John Doe.

Q — You said you were willing to fight for the Arab cause?

A — Palestinian Arabs.

Q — Would killing Robert Kennedy aid the Arab cause?

A — Sir, I am not even aware that I killed Mr. Kennedy.

Q — You know he is dead.

Q — Would the killing of Kennedy help the Arab cause?

A — I am in no position to say that.

Q — Are you glad he is dead?

A — No, Sir, I am not.

Q — Are you sorry?

A — No, I am not sorry, but I am not proud.

Q — You're not sorry?

A — No, because I have no exact knowledge of having shot him . . . but I am not proud.

Q — Did you not say "I killed Robert Kennedy wilfully, premeditatedly and with 20 years of malice aforethought"?

A — Yes, Sir, I did.

Q — Are you willing to die for the Arab cause?

A — When did I say I was willing to fight for the Arab cause?

Q — This morning. Are you willing to fight for the Arab cause?

A — Yes.

Q — Are you willing to die for it?

A — Yes.



Herald-Examiner Photo

TWO PROSECUTORS IN SIRHAN TRIAL ARRIVE AT COURTROOM

They are David N. Fitts, deputy district attorney, and Lynn D. Compton, chief prosecutor

Sex Frightens Sirhan, Psychologist Testifies

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan is a young man who is frightened of sex and reacts far differently than almost any other man when exposed to it, a psychologist testified today at the murder trial.

It was the 25th birthday of the Arab immigrant on trial for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Dr. Roderick Richardson resumed showing the jury a series of pictures—one showing a woman nude from the waist up and a clothed man—which he had put before Sirhan and asked him to make up a story of what was happening.

Richardson said Sirhan's reaction was: "Did he murder her or rape her?"

"Then he said he once had seen a movie in which a detective snapped a picture of an illicit affair and he said that might be what was happening there."

"Frightening Thing"

"He has a sexual problem—it is a frightening thing instead of an accepted thing," Richardson said. "Never in 7,000 cases did I ever have anyone theorize that this was a picture snapped by a detective."

Sirhan was beaming when he came into the courtroom and he shook hands warmly with his attorneys. They gave him a card with a cat on the cover and inside were a number of other felines with the words "from all us cats."

His mother and two brothers were not in court when the trial began and Sirhan seemed somewhat disappointed. They entered about 15 minutes later.

Richardson examined Sirhan last July 20—six weeks after the young Jordanian Arab killed Kennedy while the New York senator was celebrating victory in the California Democratic presidential primary.

"Mental Disturbance"

The psychologist said he found "a very severe emotional and mental disturbance in a man of bright-normal to superior intellectual potential." Sirhan, the psychologist said, has a highly fragile personality structure "so that the best and most adequate

level of functioning is not stable or reliable."

Paranoia destroys or severely impairs "the ability to know and respond to the difference between right and wrong," Richardson said.

Sirhan's attorneys hope to show that Sirhan did not have the mental power to form a meaningful plot against the senator. The prosecution cites Sirhan's diaries as proof that he planned to kill Kennedy because the senator's support of aid for Israel—a nation Sirhan hates violently.

A plea of "diminished capacity" could result in the jury returning a lesser verdict than first degree murder, which carries a penalty of life in prison or death in the gas chamber.

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The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Examiner (Washington) _____

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SIRHAN DEFENSE CLOSES ITS CASE

Expert Insists View Is Valid
Even if It Seems 'Absurd'

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, March 27—

The defense in the trial of Sirhan b. Sirhan rested its case today and the prosecution prepared to call several psychologists and psychiatrists who are expected to have differing views of the defendant's mental condition.

The end of the defense's effort to save Sirhan from the gas chamber came after 29 witnesses had been heard. Many of them testified that the 25-year-old Jordanian immigrant was a schizophrenic paranoid psychotic incapable of premeditating the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The presentation of the prosecution's rebuttal witnesses is expected to take at least three days. Presumably, the lawyers will then deliver their summations and the case will go to the jury.

The conclusion of the defense's case came on the 49th day of the trial. The defense witnesses have been heard for the last 19 court days.

This morning, Dr. Bernard L. Diamond completed three days of testimony on Sirhan's mental state before and at the time of the shooting by acknowledging that his version of how Sirhan killed Senator Kennedy while in a self-induced trance might seem like an "incredible story."

'Absurd, Preposterous'

"I have stated that this is an absurd, preposterous story, unlikely and incredible, which is extraordinary and possibly in a unique case such as Sirhan's does raise the gravest problems of clinical proof and credibility."

Dr. Diamond, a psychiatrist who teaches at the University of California at Berkeley and who hypnotized Sirhan several times in his jail cell, said that Sirhan was a "preposterous person" and that his actions were "too illogical even for the theater of the absurd."

"When I first had personal contact with Sirhan," he continued, "I was prepared for the usual case of a paranoid fanatic who dreams of grand delusions and that is what has been found to be so."

"I was not, however, prepared for what I discovered, these stirring instances of correspondence, courses, hypnosis, dissociate trances, mystical occultism of the Rosicrucian mind power and black magic and that this, in my psychological thinking, would have resulted in the death of Senator Kennedy that affected the destinies of the entire world."

Dr. Diamond told the court that he had investigated Sirhan's mind "by every psychiatric means within my power."

He said he had little expectation that he would be believed, but added that he thought it was "important that there exist this full record of how the assassination of Robert Kennedy came about."

The psychiatrist said that his story of how Sirhan went into a trance after seeing himself in the mirrors of an alcove in the Ambassador Hotel, and how the trance related to experiments in self-hypnosis before a mirror in his bedroom, was a "script that would never have been acceptable in a class B motion picture."

Called 'the Realities'

"And yet," he concluded, "these are, I think, the realities of the psychiatric findings."

Outside the courtroom, during a television interview, Dr. Diamond said that the only reason to believe his story was that it was so "absurd," he declined to speculate as what verdict the witness stand by Dr. Georgeologist who had been retained by the prosecution to study the test findings of two other psychologists who had examined Sirhan.

In testifying for the Defense, Dr. Seward confirmed the earlier diagnosis that the defendant was a "schizophrenic-paranoid type."

Under cross-examination, the psychologist conceded that some of the defendant's answers that served to indicate paranoia might have been colored by the stress experienced by virtue of being in jail awaiting trial for a capital offense.

She resisted the prosecution's efforts, however, to suggest questions would be affected by Sirhan's anxiety.

The last defense witness was Dr. George De Vos, a psychologist and a professor of anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. De Vos, who has given psychological tests to different groups, said that the fact that Sirhan was an Arab did not have "any bearing" on the validity of the tests.

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The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
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(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN'S MURDER TRIAL WILL COST \$1 MILLION BEFORE IT IS FINISHED, BUT IT WILL BE "WORTH EVERY PENNY," SAYS A COUNTY OFFICIAL.

THE ESTIMATE CAME YESTERDAY FROM COUNTY SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN, WHO AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTS. HE IS KEEPING TABS ON EXPENSES AND WILL RECEIVE A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING OF THE TRIAL AT ITS CONCLUSION.

SIRHAN'S TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY RESUMES TODAY FOLLOWING A THREE-DAY RECESS WITH REBUTTAL TESTIMONY FROM A PROSECUTION PSYCHIATRIST. THE CASE WILL PROBABLY GO TO THE JURY NEXT WEEK.

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FOR MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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WITH KENNEDY

ADV FOR AMS SUN JUNE 1

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC MOMENTS IN THE THREE AND ONE-HALF MONTH TRIAL OF SIRHAN B. SIRHAN CAME WHEN ASST. DIST. ATTY. LYNN COMPTON ASKED HIM IF HE WAS SORRY THAT HE HAD KILLED ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

"WELL, SIR," SAID SIRNAN, "THEY TELL ME IKO

"WELL, SIR," SAID SIRHAN, "THEY TELL ME I KILLED HIM BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER THAT I DID SO ..."
HIS VOICE TRAILED OFF. COMPTON LOOKED AT HIM WITH DISGUST AND DROPPED THE MATTER.

JY730PPD..

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